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French National Centre for Space Studies president Jean-Yves Le Gall, second left, French President François Hollande, centre, and former French minister and astronaut Claudie Haigneré, right, wear 3D glasses during a broadcast in Paris Wednesday of the Rosetta spacecraft as it prepares to land on comet 67P. Hundreds of millions of miles from Earth, the European spacecraft made history by successfully landing on the icy, dusty surface of a speeding comet — an audacious venture designed to answer big questions about the universe. See story, page 21.

JACQUES BRINON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What the Ghomeshi video showed

Tipping point. CBC execs saw woman's bruises, references to 'cracked rib' in text messages on radio host's phone: Sources

CBC fired Q radio host Jian Ghomeshi after he showed them a video depicting bruising on a woman he dated, apparently caused by a cracked rib, sources told Torstar News Service.

The video was on Ghomeshi's phone. The scene was the King Street offices of Denton LLP, a law firm retained by Ghomeshi, who was facing allegations that his alleged rough treatment of women was about to become front-page news.

Leading up to the weekend of Oct. 25-26, with Ghomeshi's professional future hanging in the balance, two CBC executives were invited to the Denton offices to hear and see Ghomeshi's side of the story.

When CBC executives Chris Boyce and Chuck Thompson left Denton on Thursday, Oct. 23, they reported to their bosses that it was "much bigger than we ever thought," a source told Torstar. Ghomeshi was put on leave of absence that day.

According to sources, the CBC executives were shown a variety of information, including a video and text messages, by the Denton lawyers at the meeting.

Sources say the video is of a woman Ghomeshi dated in the past 10 years. It shows bruising to the woman's body (she is partially covered in the video). Information provided to CBC that weekend, including text messages Ghomeshi had on his phone, refer to a "cracked rib." A large bruise could be seen on the side of her body.

As previously reported, Ghomeshi showed information that, in his opinion, revealed how a person can be bruised during sex and it could "still be consensual," said one source with a close connection to Ghomeshi's strategy that day. Ghomeshi has said he is a practitioner of BDSM — bondage-dominance-sadism-masochism.

Ghomeshi refers to the meetings in his $55-million lawsuit against CBC, filed in court the day after his firing. In the suit, he states that in the days leading up to his firing he showed "sensitive and private exchanges" involving a woman he had a relationship with. Ghomeshi states that after he showed the material CBC was satisfied that he "had not engaged in non consensual sex."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Talkin' 'bout the TMI generation

A year-long study took a look at #Instafamer teens going to risky extremes for online celebrity PAGE 4

'Cause we're app-y ...

Apps for smartphones and tablets are playing a large role in driving up the amount of time Canadians spend online PAGE 20

Raptors not sweating TV spotlight

Being featured on U.S. cable television isn't the only reason the team's game against the Bulls tonight is a big one PAGE 47

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NEWS

Trustee accused of forcible confinement, harassment

TDSB. Howard Goodman's alleged victim is the board's director of education, Donna Quan, sources say

Toronto District School Board trustee Howard Goodman has been charged with forcible confinement and criminal harassment, Toronto police confirmed Wednesday.

Toronto police spokesman Victor Kwong said the alleged incidents date from the fall of 2013 to the present, and involve one alleged victim.

While neither police nor the board would identify that person, several sources have told Torstar News Service it is director of education Donna Quan.

Goodman, 63, was arrested Wednesday morning and released around 11:30 a.m., police said. He is set to appear in court on Dec. 18.

The charges come after a stormy year for the board, and after several complaints about trustee behaviour.

Goodman, in emails he previously provided to Torstar, apologized to Quan last December for an outburst during a conversation he characterized as "not the friendliest."

Then, last spring, he publicly apologized after a raucous meeting, saying he was frustrated when he didn't get answers from staff about an issue of concern.

In his written apology, he said if he offended anyone he was sorry "without reservation.... It was not my intention to cause distress," he wrote, adding he would like staff to clarify what he did to avoid "unpleasant misunderstandings" in the future.

'My advice is to hug lots'

- In a graduation address Howard Goodman gave Grade 8 students two years ago at Glenview Middle School, he explained they could actually make themselves kinder by boosting their levels of oxytocin — the "bonding hormone" that's produced in the body when we hug people and laugh with friends — and dopamine, which increases when you achieve a goal, exercise or meditate.
- "My advice is to hug lots, hang out with friends, work hard, be creative and exercise. It will get you through high school. And it will get you through life," he said.

However, Quan and three senior staffers wrote to then-chair Chris Bolton, saying they felt intimidated and that this was not the first time staff had been "subjected to abusive, threatening and insulting comments by elected officials."

The charges seem ironic for a trustee who has long called on the board to foster a "culture of kindness" at Canada's largest school board.

"Our primary job is to have children learn to be kind — radically kind, not just tolerant or polite or respectful, but to engage others on a deeply emotional, supportive level," said Goodman in an interview earlier this year with Torstar. Adults must be "as relentless in correcting acts of unkindness as we are when we're teaching them to use cutlery or say thank you. Relentless."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Trustee Howard Goodman chairs a TDSB governance committee in this file photo.

TANNIS TOOHEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fennell ordered to pay back $144,150

In a move to "protect Brampton taxpayers," city council has handed outgoing Mayor Susan Fennell the maximum penalty under law, stripping her of 90 days' pay and ordering her to pay back $144,150 related to an expense scandal that dominated her final year in office.

The punishment was delivered in a 7-3 vote Wednesday. Fennell was absent from the meeting due to what she has described as urgent spinal surgery.

The vote followed a city integrity commissioner's finding in September that she had breached the code of conduct by "knowingly" violating the city's travel expense policies.

Under the Municipal Act, the maximum penalty council can levy for code breaches is 90 days' pay. The $144,150 Fennell has been ordered to pay back relates to the cost of an on-call limousine service.

A forensic audit released in August by Deloitte Canada, which found numerous violations of spending rules by Fennell and her staff, said she was not able to provide enough information to show the limo service had actually been used for city business.

Wednesday's motion gives Fennell the opportunity to get the $144,150 back if she can provide proof the car was used as intended.

"I'm sick and tired of people trying to protect the mayor," Coun. Grant Gibson said, after Fennell's three closest allies on council tried to defend her from further penalties.

Staff clarified that the money and the 90 days' loss of pay could be held back from the $323,000 severance package Fennell will receive on leaving council. She will also get a retirement package of more than $50,000 for sitting on Peel Region council.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Outgoing Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Selfie culture taking teens too far online, study finds

'#Instafamers.' Risky posts open up room for online exploitation, bullying, say experts

One provocative pose, the flash of a camera and a tap on a screen are all teenagers need to gain thousands, if not millions, of new friends.

A year-long study into "selfie culture" finds teenagers are going to unsettling lengths to gain online fame. So-called "#Instafamers" are abandoning lessons learned about online privacy, posting near-nude photos or videos and opening themselves up to exploitation and bullying, according to a new study by researchers at Centennial College.

"When sharing becomes over-sharing and that becomes fame-craving and that becomes obsessive, then obviously we need to start asking why," said Debbie Gordon, director of Centennial College's Kids Research Centre, which researches children's media futures.

Gordon and her team of three recent Centennial College graduates combed through social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Vine looking for users aged 13 to 18, mostly in North America.

She found thousands of fame-hungry teens, some with millions of followers, posting provocative photos or videos.

"They're working it," said Gordon. "If you've got a million followers, you are going to be in front of your phone or your computer for many hours and many days."

The study found celebrities such as Kim Kardashian and Miley Cyrus, who have massive online followings and post racy photos, influence teens. On Tuesday, Kardashian posted a photo with her bottom exposed that garnered over 700,000 likes by Wednesday evening (see the story on page 34).

"We have a culture that conflates celebrity kinds of attention with being important and being heard," said Aimée Morrison, an associate professor of English specializing in new media studies at the University of Waterloo.

Morrison said the desire for attention is natural, but in the absence of better mentoring, some teens are seduced by a quick attention fix.

"You'll have a young girl who's just turning and peeling off clothes or a young boy … who walks up the camera and just undoes his zipper and opens up his drawers," she said. "That's going to drive 'likes' and it's going to drive 'follows' and it's going to drive comments."

Some teens even monetized their online brand, according to the study. Those with large followings offered to give shoutouts to businesses in return for payment, and some received payment after allowing ads on personal blogs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Closer to home

After mining social media accounts, the research team gathered 24 GTA students to parse through the research with them.

"A lot of them were really concerned that kids are looking in all the wrong places for community and for friendship," said Gordon.

Some students said they'd never post a provocative photo for fear of future repercussions but others acknowledged popularity online can translate into real-life popularity.

According to the study, the risky online behaviour is opening up some teens to online exploitation and bullying. In some cases, other teens write abusive comments under photos, said Gordon.

Celebrities like Miley Cyrus, above performing last month in Perth, Australia, have a big influence on "#Instafamers," a year-long study by Centennial College's Kids Research Centre says. PAUL KANE/GETTY IMAGES

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Ex-T.O. cop pleads guilty to making child pornography

Dariusz Kisielewski. 36 charges include multiple counts of sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual interference

A former Toronto police officer from Malton is facing jail time after pleading guilty to a number of offences related to child pornography and sexual assault, The Mississauga News has learned.

Dariusz Kisielewski, 44, will be back in Brampton court Nov. 25 for sentencing.

Court records show Kisielewski was facing 36 charges, including multiple counts of sexual assault, sexual exploitation and sexual interference, in addition to failing to comply with bail conditions.

Kisielewski pleaded guilty in front of Justice Bruce Durno to accessing child pornography, four counts of making child pornography and three counts of sexual interference, according to Attorney General spokesperson Brendan Crawley. The sexual interference pleas mean that Kisielewski admitted to, on three occasions, touching a part of the body of a person under the age of 16 "for a sexual purpose," according to the Criminal Code.

Kisielewski faces up to 10 years in jail.

Const. Lilly FitzPatrick told the News Kisielewski did enter a guilty plea recently and the lawyers are in the midst of presenting evidence to the judge as part of the sentencing hearing.

Toronto Police Const. Victor Kwong said Kisielewski resigned from the force back in March as an officer in 22 Division. Prior to that, he had been suspended.

The married father of two was arrested at his home on Sept. 5, 2013 by the Peel Regional Police Internet Child Exploitation Unit, following a two-month investigation.

Police say a man was using his computer in his home to possess child pornography. Kisielewski was initially charged with making child pornography, possessing child pornography and three counts of voyeurism.

Earlier this year, police laid several more charges against Kisielewski as officers continued to conduct interviews and examine his computer. There was further information sworn into court records on Dec. 3, 2013 and again on Jan. 29 of this year.

Dariusz Kisielewski, in a court sketch from Brampton court on Sept. 11, 2013. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kisielewski was a uniformed constable. None of the allegations are related to his work or committed on work time, police said.

In 2009, the Polish police service commended Const. Dariusz Kisielewski in a letter thanking Toronto police for hosting police officers from the Silesia Regional Group of the Polish section of the International Police Association.

Kisielewski was born in Poland and has worked for the Toronto police since 1988.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Reasonable expectation'

Peel police won't discuss specifics of the charges, but court records show Dariusz Kisielewski is accused of "surreptitiously observing and visually recording" the victims, who are "in circumstances that give rise to a reasonable expectation of privacy." According to a well-placed source, a hidden camera was used to record the victims, who are girls.

Taxi firms take on Uber with new measures

Uber's smartphone service connects directly to licensed drivers. GETTY IMAGES

Taxi companies sputtering about the cab-hailing application Uber need to improve their quality and services if they want to retain clients, says the head of Quebec's largest fleet.

"It's fine to criticize but we have to go further and see what's behind this," said Dominique Roy, the head of Montreal-based Taxi Diamond.

Uber, the California tech company whose smartphone service allows taxi searchers in 46 countries to connect directly with available licensed drivers, has shaken the traditional cab industry by cutting out the go-between dispatchers who take a cut of each fare. More recently it has launched UberX, which allows drivers without a taxi licence to connect with people in need of a lift at prices it says are about 40 per cent lower than regular cab fares.

Cities that risk losing valuable revenue from the highly regulated taxi industry are also looking at how to clamp down on Uber. In Toronto, the company has been hit with municipal bylaw charges for licensing offences.

Taxi Diamond, which is part of the Canadian Taxicab Operators Group along with Toronto's Royal Taxi and companies in Ottawa, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, announced a suite of new measures Wednesday that it hopes will win back customers. Included in the announcement is a ban on cars older than three years in its fleet, an increased number of hybrid vehicles and mandatory criminal background checks on all drivers seeking to renew their permits.

Taxi Diamond's most revealing pledge is an improved smartphone application that will mimic Uber.

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Discrimination daily reality for minority lawyers: Report

Law Society of Upper Canada. Minority women have it especially tough

Discrimination is an everyday reality for black and other visible minority lawyers that must be addressed, according to a new report by the body that regulates the profession in Ontario.

The blunt Law Society of Upper Canada report, titled Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees, contains some disquieting findings.

"Overt discrimination and bias are a feature of daily life," the paper concludes. "Racialization is a constant and persistent factor."

Ontario's legal profession has seen an increase of visible minority lawyers in recent decades. Latest figures indicate about 17 per cent of lawyers — and 28 per cent of paralegals — are not white, up from about 9.2 per cent in 2001.

In 2012, the law society set up a working group to study the issue of racism and discrimination in its ranks.

Despite the dramatic increase in minority numbers, professional acceptance is still hard to come by, according to the study.

Alienation, lack of entry and promotion opportunities and disrespect are among the problems "racialized" lawyers say they face.

"The challenges faced by racialized licensees have an impact on the reputation of the legal professions, access to justice, and the quality of services provided," the report states.

Minority participants in the study complained that colleagues, judges and clients commonly assumed they were incompetent or ineffective. They talked about being shut out of professional opportunities, and even excluded from workplace social gatherings.

Last year, for example, Ontario's top court found that two black lawyers had been racially profiled in 2008 when an administrator at a lawyers-only lounge at a courthouse in Brampton asked them — and only them — to identify themselves.

Criminal lawyer Gordon Cudjoe, the sole black student in his class when he graduated from the University of Toronto in 1999, said classmates received 10 to 15 articling interviews. He received only four, two of them "pity" interviews — none on Bay Street. Throughout his articling years, he was kept away from clients.

"It is not ideal," said Cudjoe, who works on his own. "It has not been easy."

While the report won't surprise anyone from a minority background, Cudjoe said, the law society has been slow to come to grips with the issue. He also expressed skepticism that much has changed in terms of better opportunities for minority lawyers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"At the end of the day, we're dealing with private corporations that will only do it if it brings a profit."

Criminal lawyer Gordon Cudjoe

Criminal lawyer Gordon Cudjoe says that during his articling years he was kept away from clients. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Giant Toronto Raptor part of Santa Claus parade

The Toronto Raptors float for the Santa Claus Parade is nearing completion.

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A six-metre-tall reptile will prowl the streets of Toronto this Sunday — armed with a giant basketball.

The ferocious-looking Toronto Raptor is a highlight of the upcoming Santa Claus Parade. Sponsored by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, the red dinosaur spans an entire float platform and took hundreds of hours to design, construct and paint.

"In recent memory, it's one of the largest figures we've built," said Alf Iannarelli, general manager and creative director of the Santa Claus Parade.

At the Sunday unveiling, parade watchers will see the giant Raptor with its arm outstretched, about to slam-dunk a winning basket. The dinosaur sports a jersey with the number 95 — typically worn by the Raptors mascot — and basketball shorts.

Propped up behind the dinosaur, child volunteers will sit in stands as though they're watching a game, said Iannarelli.

His design was inspired by a photo of a real Raptors mascot mid slam-dunk. From there, he extrapolated.

While the dinosaur is impressive, the design team had to work within restrictions. Floats have height maximums of 13.6 feet (4.14 metres), due to overpasses and wires overhead along the parade route, so the dinosaur is tilted forward to comply with the guidelines.

"If he was to come alive and come off the float and stand up, he'd be about 20 feet tall," said Iannarelli.

The structure sits atop an 3.4-by-8.5-metre platform built over an old farm wagon. The wagon attaches to an SUV that will pull the float along the six-kilometre route.

Organizers say this year's parade will be Toronto's biggest in its 110-year history, with 31 floats on display and more sponsors than ever.

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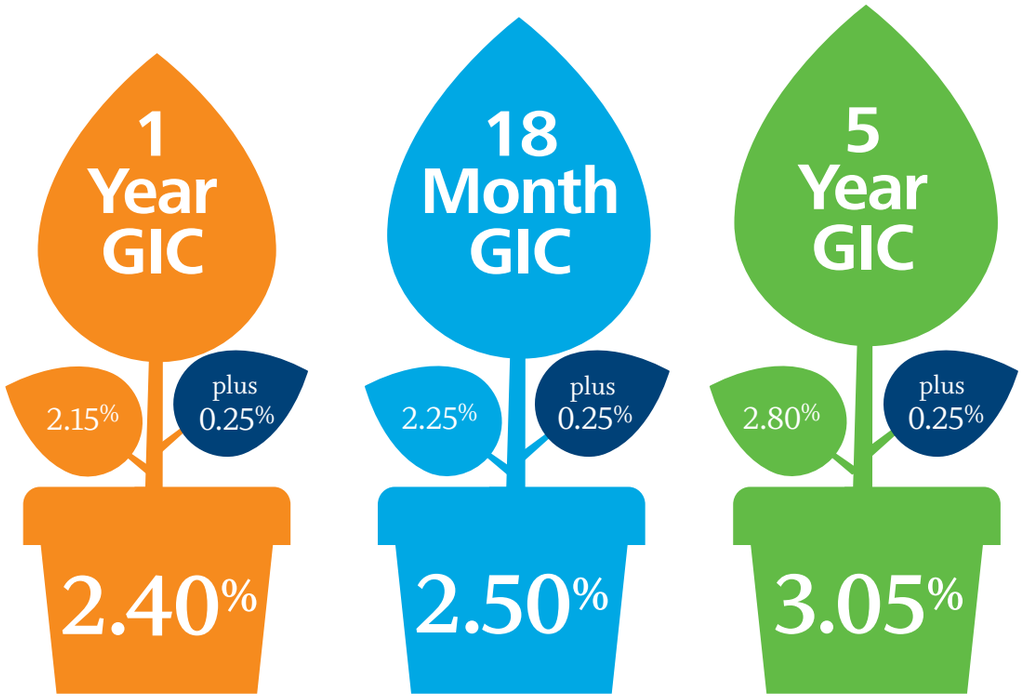

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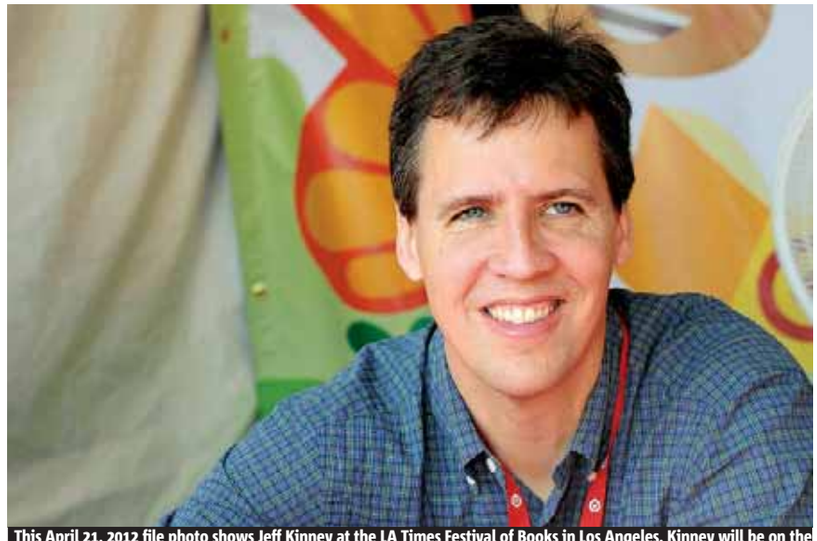
Author of Diary of a Wimpy Kid is just your average guy

Jeff Kinney. Writer behind hugely popular book series is living an ordinary life in Plainville, Mass.



This April 21, 2012 file photo shows Jeff Kinney at the LA Times Festival of Books in Los Angeles. Kinney will be on the INSPIRE! Main Stage on Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. More Inspire! coverage, page 29. KATY WINN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For a multimillionaire who's sold multimillion copies of one of the most beloved children's characters of the current generation, Jeff Kinney sounds awfully normal. He's busy trying to get his kids to their soccer game, which he coaches.

As he bustles, he hangs up the phone by accident, ignores another one that's ringing, has to explain that the funny noise is because he's changing clothes. As he then gets into the car he explains that his kids — two boys, aged 11 and 9 — are coming. "I just need to yell to them … 'Hey guys I'm on an interview so try to be quiet in the car, OK?'"

At 43, Kinney, the writer behind the hugely popular Diary of a Wimpy Kid series of books, is living an apparently ordinary life in an ordinary town called Plainville, population about 8,000.

Aside from being the author of now nine Wimpy Kid books, Kinney is also a founder of the kids' website Poptropica. So it's a bit of a surprise that, in the centre of town, he and his wife are opening a bookstore.

But then, for a guy who spends his days creating video games for kids, he can be reasonably retro.

"Recently I joined a music service … and you just type in the name of any song and you can just listen to it immediately. I thought, 'Boy, music acquisition has never been better than this.'

"Then I realized that it actually was better when you had to get into the car and go to the store and flip through the records, and you looked at the board of the records that would be coming out … and I miss that kind of feeling. The anticipation is really important."

It's that kind of anticipation with which kids wait for his newest Wimpy Kid book. The new one is called Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul. And in it the Heffleys head out on vacation. The running gag is that they keep running into a family called the Beardos.

"I thought it would be fun to take the characters out of their normal environment," says Kinney.

"What I like about writing these Wimpy Kid books is that, as much as you're constricted as a cartoonist having four panels to fill (and) basically working with the same characters again and again, you're seeing how far you can stretch yourself in telling stories and coming up with new situations that will entertain."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"What I like about writing these Wimpy Kid books is ... seeing how far you can stretch yourself in telling stories and coming up with new situations that will entertain." Jeff Kinney, author

TV fest's second year promises to be bigger, better

In the augural year of the Canadian International Television Festival, David Heath set off on what seemed an improbable mission.

He wanted television viewers to get off the couch and head to the theatre to watch TV on the big screen. Moreover, he wanted them to watch only Canadian-made shows.

"It really bugged me that we had over 60 film festivals and not one TV festival," says Heath, a veteran television industry executive. "You have major directors and stars flocking to this golden age of television, which is arguably producing better work than what you see on the big screen. So why don't we celebrate that?"

Heath, who has had a number of roles in the industry, including former programming manager of TMN, The Movie Network and programming director with the digital TV group at Rogers Media, teamed up with John Galway, another industry veteran, to form the non-profit organization. They wanted to do for TV what the Toronto International Film Festival did for film: provide a showcase where fans can interact with their favourite shows and stars.

Last year a modest contingent of 1,200 fans showed up at the TIFF Bell Lightbox for a low-key event that admittedly didn't register Comic-Con numbers. And no one thought to dress up like Rick Mercer or the cast from Heartland.

But apparently, binge-watching the History channel's Vikings in a theatre has more appeal than some might think.

Allan Hawco and Krystin Pellerin of the Republic of Doyle. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Somehow, Heath's festival made it to the second year. And he has come back with a super-sized version, up from three days to 10, starting Friday and running until Nov. 23.

"What do people do on a Sunday night? They watch their favourite shows in a group setting," says Heath. "But this takes it to another level."

This year, fans will get an advance look at Corner Gas: The Movie and talk to the stars. There will also be a Republic of Doyle fan event where viewers can say farewell to the CBC series and get a chance to meet Allan Hawco and Krystin Pellerin.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Roots

Climate change.
U.S.-China deal could sway Canadian policy

Canadian policy-makers can expect to come under intense pressure now that the United States and China have reached a groundbreaking agreement on curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Conservative government in Ottawa has long argued that curbing Canada's emissions on the global scale was not a priority when major emitters were unwilling to act.

Regulation of the oil and gas sector has been promised — and delayed — for years, even as the country falls well behind on its international commitment to curb emissions 17 per cent below 2005 levels by the year 2020.

The surprise announcement from U.S. President Barack Obama in Beijing commits Canada's dominant trading partner to even deeper emissions cuts by 2025.

David McLaughlin, the former head of the federal Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, says the bedrock of federal climate policy has always been alignment with Washington — but Canada is now clearly falling behind.

Environmental groups say Canada has run out of excuses for its inaction on emissions, while China's new commitment to renewable energy means Canada could miss out on a global economic boom in clean technology.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2015 federal election

Angry veterans call on serving soldiers to help defeat Tories

A group of angry veterans, who want the Harper government defeated in the next election, is appealing to serving members of the military to join them in protest.

Ron Clarke, a member of Canada Coalition for Veterans who has been campaigning against the closure of Veterans Affairs offices, made the appeal today during a Parliament Hill news conference.

It may put those in uniform in an awkward position, but Clarke says they need a government that looks after veterans.

Last week, a group of outspoken veterans advocates announced that six organizations had formed a coalition that would, at a minimum, boycott government announcements and photo-ops.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two suspects charged in sexual assault of teen girl

Winnipeg. Police believe the two young men also violently attacked a 23-year-old woman the same night

Winnipeg Police Superintendent Danny Smyth speaks at a press conference in Winnipeg Wednesday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police have charged two young men with a pair of violent sexual assaults, including one on an aboriginal teenage girl, and say they will take a closer look at whether the suspects had anything to do with the death of another First Nations teen last summer.

The two suspects, who are 20 and 17, face several charges, including attempted murder, in the attack on 16-year-old Grade 11 student Rinelle Harper, who was beaten Friday night and left for dead on a walking trail along the Assiniboine River in downtown Winnipeg.

They also face aggravated sexual assault charges in a second attack that same night on a 23-year-old woman.

Police Supt. Danny Smyth said the two will come under closer scrutiny as police continue to look for 15-year-old Tina Fontaine's killer. Her body was wrapped in plastic and dumped in the Red River in August. Her death has renewed calls for a federal inquiry on missing and murdered aboriginal women.

"We don't have any information right now that would suggest these men were involved with the Tina Fontaine investigation," Smyth told a news conference Wednesday. "That being said, we really had little, if any, contact with these men before this. We will certainly take a closer look at them now."

Police say Rinelle was out with friends Friday night when she got separated from her group.

She met two males who struck up a conversation with her, Smyth said.

The three of them walked to the Assiniboine River where the girl was attacked and ended up in the frigid water.

"Rinelle managed to crawl out of the river a short distance away upstream and she was attacked a second time ... and left unconscious and essentially left for dead on the riverwalk," Smyth said.

She was found by a passerby the next morning and was taken to hospital in critical condition. She has been upgraded to stable and her family says she is recovering.

Police say the second woman was attacked a short time later.

Again, the attackers struck up a conversation with the woman and then turned on her in an alley near a public pool, Smyth said. She was sexually assaulted, beaten with a weapon and left unconscious. Police were called shortly before dawn.

Justin James Hudson, 20, along with a 17-year-old male who can't be named, are charged with attempted murder, aggravated sexual assault and sexual assault with a weapon.

Victims of sexual assault are not usually identified, but police took the step of releasing Rinelle's name, with the permission of her parents, to "humanize" her and to ask for anyone with information related to her attack to come forward. The public response was overwhelming, Smyth said.

Police were also able to watch surveillance video from a number of cameras in the area, he said.

"Some of the camera footage was used to piece together the timeline."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criminal history

Court documents show Justin James Hudson pleaded guilty to drug possession last October and was fined $200. He is also facing charges laid in August of possessing stolen property.

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$1.9B surplus projected for 2015, $4.5B less than expected

Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Projections. Finance Minister Joe Oliver says the projections are 'prudent'

Next year's federal budget surplus will be $1.9 billion, the Finance Department says — $4.5 billion less than expected, thanks in large part to the Harper government's multibillion-dollar cost-cutting proposals for families.

The expected surplus, unveiled Wednesday in the government's fall fiscal and economic update, is a far cry from the $6.4-billion surplus projected in February's budget.

That's because of the Conservative government's recently announced family-friendly tax and benefit initiatives, which will consume an estimated $27 billion from public coffers between 2014-15 and 2019-20.

Finance Minister Joe Oliver, who delivered the update at a luncheon in Toronto, defended the measures, which include higher child care benefits and a controversial income-splitting plan for families with children.

"We are providing families this financial relief for a simple reason," Oliver said. "Across Canada, Canadians are telling us the same thing.

"The cost of everything, from groceries, to hydro, to housing, is going up."

The update projected that Canada would run a $2.9-billion shortfall this fiscal year, matching the government's projection in the federal February budget.

Nonetheless, the federal government is projecting five straight years of surpluses: $4.3 billion in 2016-17, $5.1 billion in 2017-18, $6.8 billion in 2018-19 and $13.1 billion in 2019-20.

In the short term, however, it remains unclear whether the Harper government will have enough leftover cash to introduce additional cost-cutting.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'Who is this human blocking my light?'

Cue the Caddyshack jokes. It may not be dancing — and whether it's a gopher or a marmot or prairie dog is unclear — but this rodent selfie taken by Stacey Wallace of Vancouver has become an Internet sensation with more than one million views and counting. Wallace took the photo at B.C.'s Manning Park, when the critter popped out of its hole in search of nuts. IMGUR

Sergeant-at-arms. Vickers gets celebrity treatment during Jerusalem visit

Hailed as a hero at home, the House of Commons' sergeant-at-arms is now getting a celebrity welcome abroad.

But Kevin Vickers is greeting the international attention with the same modesty that characterized his response to the outpouring of support at home in the wake of the deadly attacks of Oct. 22. In Jerusalem to attend an international security conference on Wednesday, Vickers was invited to meet Israel's prime minister and other government officials and was honoured by the Israeli parliament, the Knesset.

"Though I'm honoured to think (you're) excited about me, I wish and hope you realize it's about the entire team that performed very well on that day," he said on a video circulated by Israeli officials.

The trip had been arranged prior to the attack on Parliament Hill, where Vickers was credited with taking the fatal shot at an armed gunman who ran into Centre Block minutes after killing a soldier at the National War Memorial.

"This terror attack in Ottawa proves, once again, that Islamic radical terrorism has no limits and respects no borders," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement following their meeting Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Meetings in Jerusalem

Vickers' meetings included a sit-down with the Speaker of the Knesset, who gave him a book about Jerusalem. In return, Vickers presented neckties bearing the logo of the Canadian Association of Sergeants-At-Arms to the Speaker and one of the Knesset's top security people.

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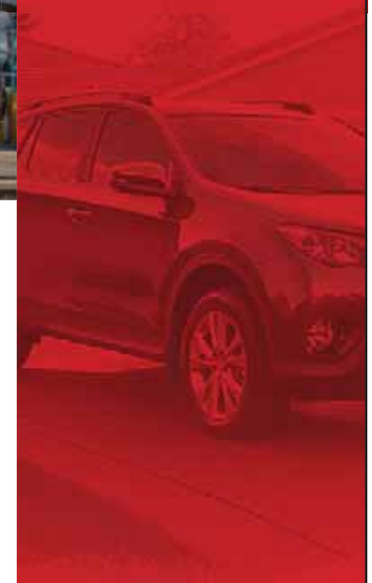
2014 INVENTORY BLOW OUT, AND 2015'S ARRIVING DAILY



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Keystone XL vote could come next week

An end to the fight in sight? Democrats try to force a vote on controversial project

Six years of delay and debate over the controversial Keystone XL pipeline may be finally nearing an end.

On Wednesday, supporters of the long-stalled, Canadian-linked oil project demanded an imminent vote in the United States Congress.

They appeared to get their wish.

A key vote is expected early next week.

The results of the U.S. midterm elections had prompted widespread expectation that the new Republican-dominated, oil-friendly Congress might pursue the project upon its January swearing-in.

But within minutes of Congress returning for its first day of business following the election, the Senate's more conservative Democrats began pushing for a vote during the so-called lame-duck period.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It needs to get done right now."

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu on the Keystone XL pipeline vote

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu BILL HABER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Storage locker case. Judge says no to independent pathologist at autopsies

There will be no independent pathologist at the autopsies on six infants whose remains were found in a Winnipeg storage locker.

A judge has rejected the request that was made by the lawyer defending a woman charged with concealing the bodies.

Andrea Giesbrecht also faces new, unrelated charges of fraud and breaching a court order, so her bail hearing was postponed to Dec. 1.

Defence lawyer Greg Brodsky had argued that since police were allowed to observe the autopsies, his client should be given the same right through an independent party.

But the medical examiner said it would have been like having the accused in the examining room.

The autopsies were already almost complete when they were put on hold while Brodsky's request was heard.

Police have said the state of the remains was such that it could take months of forensic examination before it might be known who the parents were, how the infants died and whether they were full term.

Brodsky has said that, under the law, the infants will not be considered people if they turn out to be less than 20 weeks' gestation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Company security staff walk past storage lockers in Winnipeg, on Oct. 21. There will be no independent pathologist at the autopsies on six infants whose remains were found in a Winnipeg storage locker. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health Canada

Toys with small, powerful magnets a swallowing risk

Health Canada is repeating its warning that toys containing small, powerful magnets are a health risk to children.

The warning comes after the department received a report of a recent incident where a three-year-old swallowed two magnet rods from a Mega Brands Magnetix Magnetic Building Set.

The child received medical care quickly and didn't sustain any injuries.

But the department says if a child swallows more than one magnet, they can be drawn together in the intestinal tract. This can cause intestines to twist and create blockages or produce tears in intestinal walls.

Mega Brands sold the Magnetix building sets in Canada between 2006 and 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

11.13.14

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One that didn't get away

Fishermen discover duck-billed dino fossil

Severe flooding in southwestern Alberta in 2013 may be responsible for two fishermen discovering the 80-million-year-old fossil of a possible new dinosaur species.

A 1,300-kilogram boulder the men found in the Castle River, southwest of Lethbridge, in September contains a partial skull, neck and chest of a duck-billed dinosaur.

Officials at the Royal Tyrrell Museum believe floodwater dislodged the big rock and sent it rolling down the river where the fishermen spotted it.

"It is rather surprising that any part of dinosaur fossil could survive being tumbled in a river full of cobbles and boulders," said Dr. Donald Henderson, curator of dinosaurs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Left them in a hot truck

B.C. woman accused of killing 6 dogs pleads guilty

A Vancouver-area dog walker accused of killing six dogs by leaving them in a hot truck has pleaded guilty to two charges — animal cruelty and mischief.

Emma Paulsen was charged with six counts before admitting that she lied about what happened in May, when she left the animals in her truck at a Langley dog park.

Paulsen first reported they had been stolen from her vehicle but then told police that the dogs died of heat exhaustion.

Reports of the missing dogs prompted a massive community search before ultimately leading officers to the bodies in a Fraser Valley ditch.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former NHL hockey star Theo Fleury poses for a photograph in Toronto on October 2009. Fleury has come a long way in recent years. He has seemingly escaped the chokehold of addiction and wears a smile on his face. His goal nowadays is to help others avoid the pain he went through.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fleury looks to 2nd career — helping others heal

'It's my purpose.' He is constantly on the move, from giving talks to writing music

Theo Fleury has come a long way.

The former NHL star has seemingly escaped the chokehold of addiction and now wears a smile on his face. His mission today is to help others escape their emotional pain.

Fleury chronicles his spiritual journey in a new book called Conversations With a Rattlesnake, co-written with therapist Kim Barthel.

"Helping is healing" is a key theme.

"It's my purpose," Fleury writes. "I honestly believe it's more important than my hockey career. I was put on this earth to help."

Fleury calls Barthel the "Wayne Gretzky of therapy." She says Fleury's intellectual capacity is "pretty extraordinary," shown by his ability to take in information, assimilate it and act on it.

Now 46, Fleury still sees himself as a work in progress. But his life journey is no longer two steps forward, one step back.

"It's only a half-a-step back now or a quarter step back," Fleury said in a recent interview. "Because I have tools."

"Nice," interjected Barthel.

"Whereas before I didn't have any tools," Fleury continued. "I reached in my toolbox and I couldn't even build a square box ... because I didn't have anything. Now I have a few screws, a screwdriver. So I can build some stuff."

The exchange, in the restaurant of a downtown hotel, reads like an excerpt from Conversations With a Rattlesnake.

The book is written in the form of an extended conversation between Fleury and his therapist. It's the product of "two and a half years of constant conversation," according to Barthel.

"The difficulty was I couldn't keep up with Theo," she said. "He would change so fast, that all of the transcripts from the recordings, they were way out of date by the time I would get to them."

Barthel says people seem drawn to the former hockey player by his honesty and vulnerability, reasoning that if he can change his life so can they.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Magnotta a pathological liar: Crown prosecutor

Testimony. Psychiatrist says accused suffering from schizophrenia which does not equal being a liar

The Crown at Luka Rocco Magnotta's murder trial is suggesting his responses to a psychiatrist hired to assess his criminal responsibility were littered with lies and deliberate lapses.

Psychiatrist Marie-Frederique Allard has repeatedly argued Magnotta was suffering from schizophrenia and was not criminally responsible when he killed and dismembered Jun Lin in Montreal in May 2012.

Crown prosecutor Louis Bouthillier cross-examined Allard today and was able to get her to discuss several pieces of information she says she neglected to put into her 127-page report on Magnotta.

The Crown also pointed out differences between the version Magnotta gave Allard and one he gave another psychiatrist who is scheduled to testify for the defence.

Bouthillier says Magnotta's actions in Lin's death were planned and deliberate.

The Crown prosecutor said Magnotta had no problem in telling lies, calling him at one point a "pathological liar."

"He lied to a psychiatrist to get out of being hospitalized," Bouthillier said. "He could also have lied to get out of going to prison."

Allard says Magnotta's medications could be responsible for his memory lapses and that being schizophrenic did not equal being a liar.

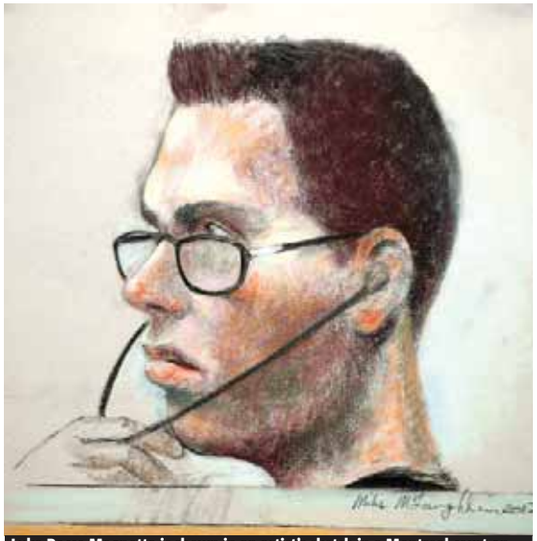
The psychiatrist conceded she didn't speak to anyone who frequented Magnotta in the weeks and days leading up to the night Lin was killed because Magnotta had few clients in his work as an escort.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homolka story

On Tuesday, Allard told the court that Magnotta admitted making up his affair with convicted killer Karla Homolka in 2007.

- Allard said Magnotta was seeking notoriety, but primarily wanted people to believe he was the victim of harassment.



Luka Rocco Magnotta is shown in an artist's sketch in a Montreal court on March 13, 2013. MIKE MCLAUGHLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Possibility of no jail angers victim's dad

A young man who pleaded guilty in September in Halifax court to making child pornography should get jail time for the offence when he is sentenced Thursday, said the father of the then 15-year-old victim at the centre of the unique and high-profile case.

The father of the girl — who died at age 17 after she was taken off life-support following a suicide attempt in the spring of 2013 — said he has been told by the Crown that the 20-year-old man will likely not get jail time.

Sentence

"... it may well be a suspended sentence."

Wayne MacKay, a Halifax lawyer and cyberbullying expert, who said it's likely the accused will not be handed a prison sentence because of his age and as it was his first offence.

"I think getting probation or a suspended sentence for a crime like that, it's insulting, to put it mildly," he said.

Based on an agreed statement of facts read into the court record by Crown lawyer Alexander Smith, the girl went to the accused's house where she, a friend and four male youths drank alcohol in the fall of 2011. Smith said the accused took a photograph later that night of one of the male youths having sex with the girl while she was vomiting.

After the accused was arrested in the summer of 2013, he told police that he sent the photograph to the male youth who had sex with the girl the next day, Smith said. The accused is not alleged to have sent the photograph to anyone else, but the image was distributed to numerous people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Viral video. Police say no reason to probe homeless man who set hair on fire

An online video of a Vancouver homeless man being goaded into setting his hair on fire has sparked outrage, though police are not investigating the incident.

The video titled Crackhead Lights Hair On Fire posted to the LiveLeak website was apparently filmed Sunday in a bar district and has generated more than 50,000 views.

The smartphone-quality footage shows a man flicking a lighter by his right ear while young men off screen are heard egging him on. The man hardly responds when the back of his head bursts into flame, while one person urges him to stop as others laugh and the man pats out the fire with his hand.

Const. Brian Montague said that although the video is disturbing, there is no overt force from another person suggesting assault.

"With the short video only, it is difficult to say this is criminal in nature" Montague said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lethal control programs

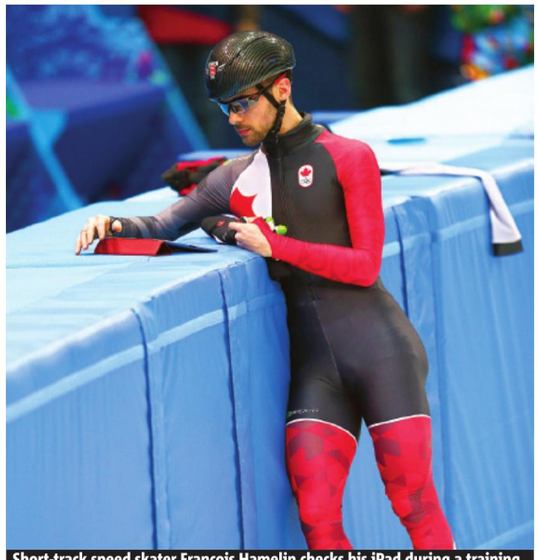
Hunted wolves stressed out: Study

Wolves in areas where they are heavily hunted have higher levels of stress and reproductive hormones which alters a wolf pack's elaborate social structure and might have evolutionary consequences, says a study by scientists from B.C., Alberta and Israel.

The Raincoast Conservation Foundation, which opposes B.C.'s grey wolf management plan, says the study highlights that lethal control programs should take psychological and social effects on animals into account, not just numbers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians double time spent online, study finds



Short-track speed skater Francois Hamelin checks his iPad during a training session earlier this year. Apps for smartphones and tablets are driving a spike in how much time Canadians spend online, a study by comScore found.

CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

Not a PC world. About 1.3 million Canadians now strictly use mobile devices to go online, comScore says

As Canadians continue to get hooked on their smartphones, tablets and streaming video, they're almost doubling the time they spend online, according to measurement firm comScore.

As of August, there were about 27.8 million Canadian adults accessing the Internet with a computer, comScore reports. On average, they spent almost 39 hours a month browsing the web with a desktop or laptop. But when accounting for watching Internet video and using mobile devices, the average time spent online shot up to nearly 75 hours a month.

Canadians in the 25-to-34 demographic were seen to be spending the most time online, averaging around 110 hours a month. Only about 50 of those hours were linked to web browsing on a computer.

The oldest Canadians tracked by comScore, ages 55 and older, were spending just 20 or so hours with a mobile device or streaming video a month. The bulk of their online hours were devoted to web browsing on a computer.

App usage accounts for over 80 per cent of the time Canadians spend online with a mobile device, versus just 20 per cent spent using a web browser, comScore says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smartphones

78%

About 78 per cent of all Canadians owning a cellphone were using a smartphone — second highest behind Spain among the countries comScore tracks (and ahead of the U.K., the U.S. and Italy).

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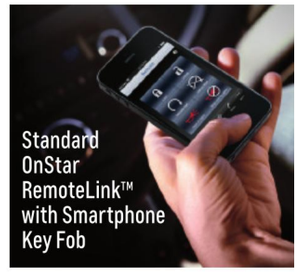

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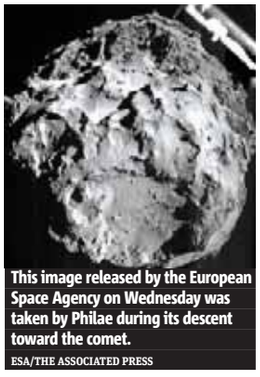
ESA lander touches down

Glimpse into the past. Scientists hope Philae's comet-landing data will unlock some of Earth's early secrets

Hundreds of millions of miles from Earth, a spacecraft made history Wednesday by successfully landing on the surface of a speeding comet — an audacious first designed to answer the universe's big questions.



This image released by the European Space Agency on Wednesday was taken by Philae during its descent toward the comet.
ESA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The landing on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko required precision, as even the slightest error could have resulted in cosmic calamity.

Indications were that the spacecraft touched down almost perfectly, save for an unplanned bounce, said Stephan Ulamec, head of the lander operation.

But thrusters that were meant to push the lander, called Philae, onto the surface, and harpoons that would have anchored it to the comet failed to deploy properly. Initial data from the spacecraft indicated that it lifted off again, turned and then came to rest.

"Today we didn't just land once; we maybe even landed twice," said Ulamec.

The landing team at European Space Agency (ESA) mission control in Darmstadt, Germany, first had to sweat through a tense seven-hour countdown that began when Philae dropped from the agency's Rosetta space probe as both it and the comet hurtled through space at 66,000 kilometres an hour.

Celebrating scientists in the main control room appear on a video screen at the European Space Agency after unmanned spacecraft Philae landed on a comet called 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko on Wednesday.
MICHAEL PROBST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The landing is the highlight of Rosetta's decade-long mission to study comets and learn more about the origins of these celestial bodies. Scientists have likened these comets — believed to number in the trillions — to time capsules that are virtually unchanged since the earliest moments of the universe.

"By studying one in enormous detail, we can hope to unlock the puzzle of all of the others," said Mark McCaughrean, a senior scientific adviser to the mission.

The mission will also give researchers the opportunity to test the theory that comets brought organic matter and water to Earth billions of years ago, said Klim Churyumov, one of the two astronomers who discovered the comet in 1969.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian contributions

Two Canadian companies were bursting with pride after playing small but important roles in the historic landing of a spacecraft on the surface of a comet.

- **SED Systems.** Based in Saskatoon, the company built three ground stations the ESA used to communicate with the Rosetta spacecraft.
- **ADGA-RHEA.** This Ottawa-based company provided software that handles the lander's complex operation procedures and commands.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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London. New book: Jesus, Mary Magdalene tied knot

A researcher who has been criticized for his revisionist Biblical theories says he has new evidence that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and that early Christians considered her a deity.

Canadian-Israeli documentary-maker Simcha Jacobovici says an ancient manuscript in the British Library offers a glimpse at an early version of Christianity.

"This shows that Mary Magdalene really got ripped off" in theology, Jacobovici said Wednesday at the launch of The Lost Gospel, a book co-authored with York University religious studies Professor Barrie Wilson.

But many religious scholars are skeptical about the theory, which is based on The Story of Joseph and Aseneth. Jacobovici and Wilson studied a 1,500-year-old Syriac-language version of the story in the London library.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Simcha Jacobovici, left, and Barrie Wilson hold an ancient manuscript they say proves Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trade Center workers trapped 69 stories up

New York. Firefighters cut hole in new tower's glass to pull window washers to safety an hour later

Two workers dangle 69 stories up, until firefighters cut a hole in the glass to rescue them (inset). KATHY WILLENS/AP

Two window washers were trapped for more than an hour Wednesday on scaffolding dangling 69 stories up the side of 1 World Trade Center before firefighters cut through the glass and pulled them to safety.

The dramatic rescue occurred on the south side of the 104-storey building, where the open-topped platform hung at about a 45-degree angle and swayed slightly in the wind.

The fire department said the workers were tethered and communicating with rescuers during their ordeal.

A cable on the scaffolding apparently broke at about 1 p.m., according to Joe Pentangelo of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the building.

Rescuers could be seen dropping cables to workers and the fire department tweeted a photograph of rescuers inside the building looking at the dangling platform. The hole cut into the thick glass was 6 feet tall, even with rescuers' heads as they stood at the precipice. The workers were brought through it at about 2:15 p.m.

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Sterilization deaths expose troubles in Indian health care

Tackling a population boom. Deaths of 12 women after they underwent sterilization procedures this week have raised serious ethical questions

Indian women who underwent sterilization surgeries receive treatment at the District Hospital in Bilaspur, in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The women were poor, from villages in central India where the promise of a few dollars is all but impossible to resist. Many had babies so young they were still nursing at their mothers' breasts.

The deaths of 12 women after they underwent sterilization procedures this week have raised serious ethical questions about India's drive to curb a booming population by paying women who get sterilized.

The deaths also exposed the dangerous lack of oversight in India's $74 billion US health-care industry.

"We really are not paying enough attention to the quality of care in the public health system," said Jay Satia, an adviser to the Public Health Foundation of India.

The surgeon who performed the operations at the government-run "health camp" in Chhattisgarh state plowed through more than 80 surgeries in six hours — a clear breach of government protocol, which prohibits surgeons from performing more than 30 sterilizations in a day, a top medical official said Wednesday.

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Will YouTube hit right note with Music Key?

Google is remixing the music on its YouTube video site with the addition of an ad-free subscription service, dubbed Music Key, and a new format designed to make it easier to find millions of songs that can still be played for free. After a promotional period, Music Key will cost $10 US per month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 88.37¢ (+0.45¢)

TSX 14,856.20 (+95.93)

OIL $77.18 US (-$0.76)

GOLD $1,159.10 US (-$3.90)

Natural gas: $4.16 US (-$0.06)
Dow Jones: 17,612.20 (-2.70)

William Boyd's latest book brought to you by Land Rover

Art + commerce.
Author's branded book has shaken and stirred the literary community

Soon after turning out the latest James Bond novel, British author William Boyd agreed to write another thriller based on a world-famous brand.

The Land Rover.

Boyd's nearly 17,000-word story, The Vanishing Game, coming out Wednesday as a free download through Amazon.com, Apple and thevanishinggame.com, tells of a 35-year-old British actor named Alec Dunbar and the troubles he encounters when a pretty young woman convinces him to deliver a flask filled with clear liquid from London to Scotland. His transport is a certain four-wheel-drive vehicle.

William Boyd
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Making ends meet

"It's a tough world out there for most writers, and anything that keeps them afloat is fine with me."
Author Scott Turow, who has turned down endorsements, writing in an email

Boyd, paid in the low six figures for the project, said he signed on because Land Rover made so few requests.

"They said they wanted an adventure and they said, 'Somewhere in this adventure it would be good if a Land Rover appeared,'" the 62-year-old author said during a recent telephone interview. He said it was left entirely up to him how prominent a role the vehicle would play.

"I invented the story, I invented the characters, I invented the locations," said Boyd, whose novels include The New Confessions and Brazzaville Beach.

Boyd's story can be read as a traditional book or as an interactive narrative through the dedicated website. An audio track features a voiceover and music. Photographs and moving images provide a backdrop to the words.

If The Vanishing Game itself cannot be called "a Land Rover story," the company provides other reminders. The Land Rover logo appears at the top of the screen, and the occasional word or phrase, such as "river" or "cross country," links to a picture of a Land Rover or a real-life story about a Land Rover user.

The literary community has mostly shunned commercial endorsements, although there are precedents for Boyd's book. In 2001, Fay Weldon was commissioned by Bulgari to write The Bulgari Connection, in which she worked in references to the jewelry company. Julia Alvarez wrote a poem for Absolut vodka, and several authors, including Elmore Leonard and Lisa Scottoline, contributed essays for a 1990s Coca-Cola campaign. A recent e-book, Hillary Carlip's Find Me I'm Yours, was funded in part by the makers of Sweet'N Low.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Getty Images file

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Invasion of the drones

The U.S. government is getting near-daily reports — and sometimes two or three a day — of drones flying near airplanes and helicopters or close to airports without permission, federal and industry officials tell The Associated Press. It's a sharp increase from just two years ago when such reports were still unusual.

Many of the reports are filed with the Federal Aviation Administration by airline pilots. But other pilots, airport officials and local authorities often file reports as well, said the officials, who agreed to discuss the matter only on the condition that they not be named because they weren't authorized to speak publicly. Michael Toscano, president of a drone industry trade group, said FAA officials also have verified the increase to him.

A man launches a small drone to fly over the scene of an explosion in New York in March. U.S. government officials have been inundated with reports of drones flying near aircraft and airports without permission. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

While many of the reports are unconfirmed, raising the possibility that pilots may have mistaken a bird or another plane in the distance for a drone, the officials said other reports appear to be credible.

The FAA tightly restricts the use of drones, which could cause a crash if one collided with a plane or was sucked into an engine. Small drones usually aren't visible on radar to air-traffic controllers, particularly if they're made of plastic or other composites.

"It should not be a matter of luck that keeps an airplane and a drone apart," said Rory Kay, a training captain at a major airline and a former Air Line Pilots Association safety committee chairman. "So far we've been lucky because if these things are operating in the sky unregulated, unmonitored and uncontrolled, the possibility of a close proximity event or even a collision has to be of huge concern."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Part of SNC-Lavalin

Kentz Corp. signs oil contract in Iraq worth up to $110M

SNC-Lavalin's recently acquired Kentz Corp. has signed a three-year project management contract in Iraq with a major international oil company that could be worth up to $110 million.

The contract is the first since the Montreal-based engineering and construction company acquired U.K.-based Kentz in August for $2.1 billion.

Kentz was the first big acquisition for CEO Robert Card, who was hired after the engineering firm disclosed financial irregularities two years ago that led to the departures of several top executives.

The oil and gas service company with about 20,000 employees will provide procurement, engineering, project management and construction services.

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40	$12	$10	$12	$10	$23	$18
45	$16	$12	$19	$13	$33	$22
50	$16	$13	$29	$20	$52	$36
65	$61	$40	$146	$94	$280	$183

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IN WHICH JOHN STARTS GOING TO YOGA

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
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I've started attending yoga classes.

You'll notice I didn't say I'm DOING yoga, because that would involve athletic poses and rhythmic breathing and other yogic things I haven't mastered yet because I spend most of each class lying motionless and sucking air, like I'm doing my best Iron Lung impression.

The classes have been a long, difficult journey (both of them), but they're necessary. My girlfriend's been suggesting yoga for months, because she noticed that my joints have the same range of motion as the original 1980s Star Wars figures — the ones where the Jedis were all karate experts because the only way to hit Darth Vader was with a downward chop. I don't think I'll ever get my body to GI Joe swivel-arm battle grip, but I'm hopeful with yoga I'll reach Masters of the Universe twist-waist, power-punch action.

It's been a long time coming. I've avoided yoga for 20 years because I read an interview once where a studio owner said, "It's best to do yoga in the morning when the world's magnetic field is strongest," when any fool knows that the Earth's magnetic field peaks at 4 p.m., after a brief nap. I figured arguing about pseudoscience was not the best path to inner peace, so my girlfriend assured me she'd choose a no-nonsense teacher, which meant I could focus entirely on how much pain I'm in.

And how'd it go? Great! I was terrible at everything, which took a lot of pressure off. My biggest problem was that the instructor said not to look up from my poses, but I had to because the instructions make no sense if you've never heard them before.

For instance, people in yoga seem to call the butt area the sit bones. "Check out Kim Kardashian's sit bones!" is a common phrase among yoga practitioners.

So I'd have my head down and I'd hear something like "Heel-toe, now lunge your sit bones, breeeeathe into the belly of your hamstrings, and invert yourself!"

Personal journey

I was terrible at everything, which took a lot of pressure off.

I'd glance up half expecting to see my classmates inside out, their internal organs looking blissful, but instead I'd see my instructor saying, "Don't look up!"

So I was graceless and clueless. I did have one thing going for me, though: I didn't care. My girlfriend always comes back from class with a mental chart of where she ranked amongst her classmates in yoga skill, which seems like wasted effort if you're not in the World Yoga Championships.

My imperviousness to outside criticism has a nice yoganess to it, though I guess being proud of it kind of ruins it too, so I'll shut up now. And if anyone wants to make fun of me for trying yoga, no matter how ineptly, I suggest we step outside so I can kick your sit bones up and down the street. Namaste.

No more chasing tail

Red deer graze following the end of the rutting season on Wednesday in Glen Etive, Scotland. The rutting season sees the large red deer stags compete against each other for mating rights and they can be heard roaring and bellowing in an attempt to attract the hinds. The rut draws to a close in early November when the males will spend the winter feeding to regain strength for the following year's season. JEFF J. MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

Calm after mating storm for red deer

After months of butting horns, chasing tail and avoiding gunshots, the male red deer population of Scotland can finally relax and look forward to quieter times.

The exhausting rutting season has just come to an end in Glen Etive, Scotland.

Deer and other ruminant mammals engage in rutting season, which is triggered by shorter day lengths, in the fall.

During this mating season, stags will rub their antlers on trees, fight each other (sometimes leading to serious injury) and attempt to herd females in estrus together.

Since throwing caution to the wind in their attempt to hook up with as many females as possible makes them easy targets, the breeding season is also a popular time for hunting.

The stags are often in rough shape after the rut, and now is the time for them to rest. METRO

Weight loss

20%

All that chasing and fighting can result in a huge weight loss. Some research shows losses of as high as 20 per cent of a stag's total body weight.

MetroTube

metro AR

Puppy ploy

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

SCREENGRAB

The dogs we know and love today began diverging from wolves after they figured out that hanging around people and snacking on trash was a better deal than buffalo hunts. And then evolution took care of the rest. Well, Charlie the Beagle's attempt to barter a beloved toy for a some sweet, sweet table scraps is the next stage of that evolution — a domestic animal merchant class. Just keep them away from any copies of Atlas Shrugged. (CharlieDaDog/YouTube)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: The Philae probe has landed on a comet, the first time this sort of feat has been pulled off. What's up next for humanity?

@potakak: Find the Obelisk....

@justinhartling: a constant loop of "don't wanna miss a thing" by Aerosmith.

metro AR

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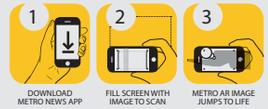

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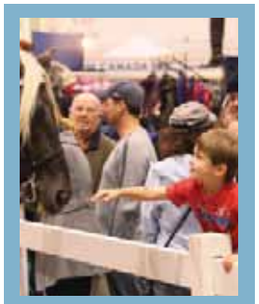
FAMILY FUN GUIDE

BY ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK

Where to go, what to do and how to get there. Here are this week's activity listings



HEAD TO THE ROYAL

The annual Royal Agricultural Winter Fair at Exhibition Place features the world's largest indoor agricultural and international equestrian competition. See entries from breeders, growers and exhibitors, more than 4,500 animals, and The Royal Horse Show. Ends Nov. 16. For more, go to royalfair.org.

WINTER MAGIC AT YONGE-DUNDAS

Illuminite, the annual tree lighting ceremony in Yonge-Dundas Square features a multi-stage entertainment venue with glowing LED characters, life-sized toy soldiers and an aerial ballet. Nov. 15, 5 p.m. -7:30 p.m. For more, go to wintermagic.ca/events/illuminite.

DX FAMILY SUNDAY

This monthly event at Canada's Design Museum lets children and their families explore and engage with the museum's exhibits, including the Politics of Fashion/Fashion of Politics exhibit. Children can even hop into the photo booth for a memorable picture. November 16th, noon-4 p.m. For more, go to dx.org.

THE SANTA CLAUS PARADE

The 110th annual parade features some 21 bands and 31 floats to entertain and delight everyone in the family. Stay to the end to see the jolly man in red himself. Nov. 16. Santa arrives at 12:30 p.m. For more, visit thesantaclausparade.ca.

HIT THE ICE AT HARBOURFRONT

Head to the Natrel Rink opening at Harbourfront Centre, and visit this artificially cooled outdoor rink. You can skate to music while taking in the beautiful surroundings of Lake Ontario and the Toronto Islands. No skates? Rent them on site. Opens Nov. 15, weather permitting. For more, go to harbourfrontcentre.com.

PANDA PARTY AT THE ZOO

Come spend the night at the Toronto Zoo and visit the pandas before they go to sleep. Book in as a family. The program includes a guided tour, a bedtime snack and fun activities. Nov. 15. Visit torontozoocom for more.

"Someday I'd like to play on Team Canada." – *Madison, age 8*

Every kid has a someday. It may be something fantastical like flying to the moon, something practical like following their dad into construction or something we all can relate to like wanting to be surrounded by love. No matter what it is, we want to give them the support they need to get there. That's why we're pledging $100 million over five years to help over a million children do just that. Let's make every kid's someday™ happen.

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Hotel Room • Dec 06 & 09
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Meliá Las Dunas ★★★★Plus
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Grand Lucayan Bahamas ★★★★Plus
Islandview Room
Dec 06 & 13
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Saint Lucia
Coco Palm Resort ★★★
Gardenview Room • Dec 06 & 16
$945 + $340 taxes

Curaçao
Sunscape Curaçao Resort Spa & Casino ★★★★
Deal Of The Day Room • Dec 14
$975 + $375 taxes

St. Maarten
Riu Palace St. Martin ★★★★★
Junior Suite Gardenview
Dec 11
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Aruba Adults Only 18+
Riu Palace Antillas ★★★★★
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CENTRAL AMERICA PACKAGES

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MEXICO PACKAGES

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Hotel Room
Nov 27, Dec 04 & 11
$465 + $392 taxes

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico ★★★
Villas Vallarta By Canto Del Sol
Hotel Room
Dec 01, 08 & 15
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Riviera Maya, Mexico
The Reef Coco Beach ★★★★
Hotel Room
Nov 28, Dec 05 & 12
$595 + $392 taxes

Huatulco, Mexico
Barceló Huatulco Beach ★★★★
Superior Room
Dec 02 & 09
$595 + $392 taxes

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Mexico
Azul Ixtapa Grand Resort ★★★★Plus
Luxury Suite Oceanview
Dec 15
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Los Cabos, Mexico
Riu Palace Cabo San Lucas ★★★★★
SuperSaver King Room
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Riu Caribe ★★★★Plus
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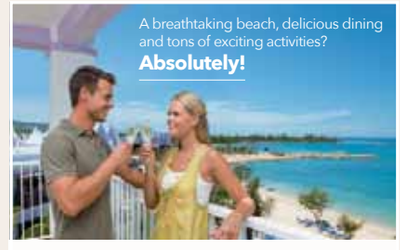
Manzanillo, Mexico ★★★★
Barceló Karmina Palace Deluxe
Upgrade Junior Suite Deluxe Oceanview
Nov 29 & Dec 06
$495 + $392 taxes



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Head back to the future of 1960s and '70s Toronto

Books. The city inspired the birth of cyberpunk, a sci-fi genre that blends high technology with low-life street culture

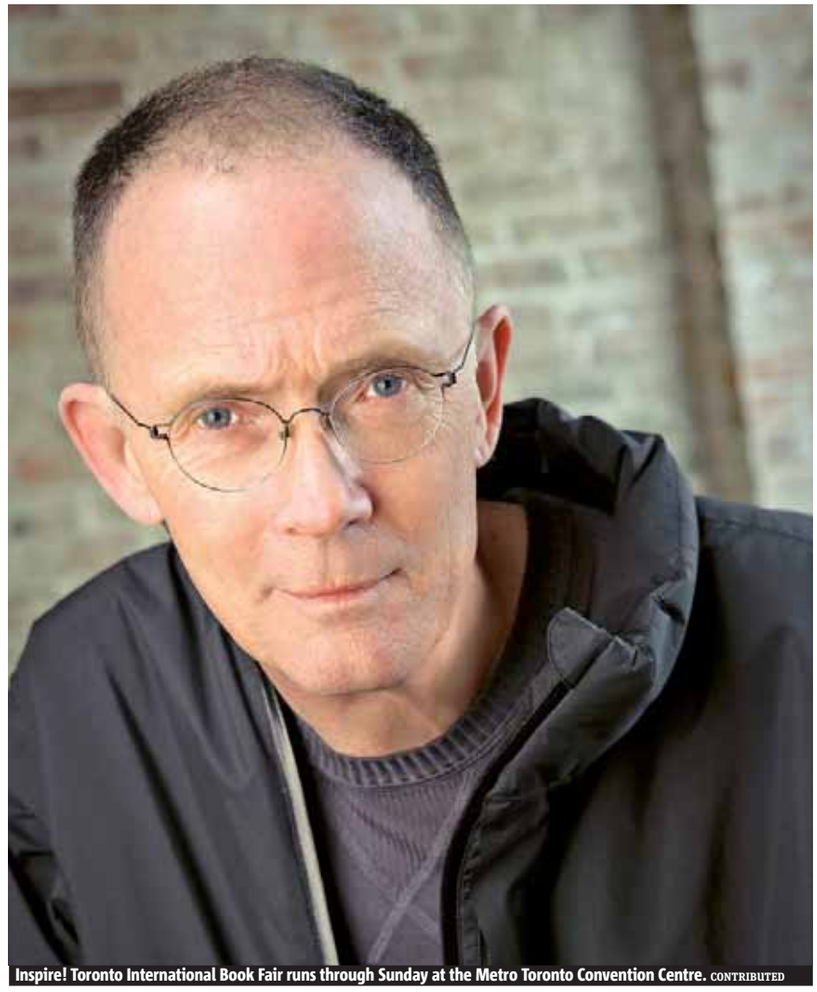
BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

William Gibson is an internationally acclaimed writer known for his prescient predictions of the future.

But the groundwork for sci-fi classics like 1984's Neuromancer was laid more than 45 years ago right here in Toronto.

"I wasn't there three years in all," says Gibson, who's called Vancouver home for the past four decades. "Because it was my late adolescence, it made a big impression."

Today Gibson is widely credited as the father of cyberpunk, a sci-fi sub-genre that blends high technology with low-life street culture.



Inspire! Toronto International Book Fair runs through Sunday at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. CONTRIBUTED

But growing up in Virginia, he eventually "drifted up in a kind of vague, undecided way" to Toronto in 1967 and quickly immersed himself in the city's burgeoning counterculture.

"I had never seen a real city before," he recalls. "Things were happening and then the summer of 1967 happened, so I just stayed there."

An avid sci-fi fan since childhood, Gibson found the city "quite science-fictional," particularly our "Star Trek grade" subway system.

"I'd never been on a subway before," he says. "Having this brand new silvery, white-tiled system under the city, it was wonderful."

He was also struck by the city's mosaic of foreign cultures, a hallmark of the near-futures he'd later describe in his novels. But an even more important event happened a decade later.

In 1977, just as he was publishing his first series of short stories, Gibson was visiting a friend in a loft at Parliament and Carlton when a noise started to filter in from the street.

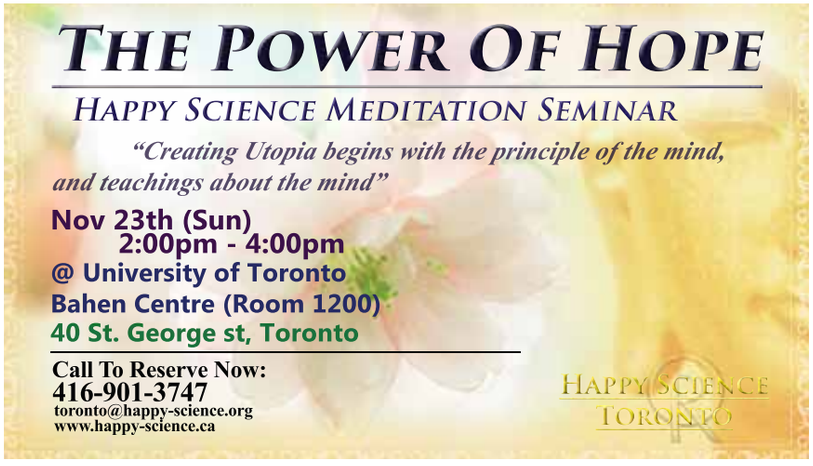
"I could hear this remorseless drumming. I said, 'Who's playing?' And my friend said, 'F-ing punks.'"

Looking for the source of the music, he wandered into one of the city's first punk gigs, featuring locals the Diodes. "It was my first clue as a person my age then that there was anything like that going on."

WILLIAM GIBSON AT INSPIRE! TORONTO INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR – SATURDAY AT 1 P.M. IN THE NORTH BUILDING OF THE METRO TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE, 255 FRONT ST. W. SEE TORONTOBOOKFAIR.CA FOR FULL DETAILS.

Latest work

Gibson will be reading from his latest book, The Peripheral, Saturday. But when asked to give a synopsis of its plot, the author demurred. "Are you kidding? I'll be trying to figure out what that thing's about for the rest of my life." Whether he's writing about a fantastic version of the present, as he did in his Blue Ant Trilogy, or an imagined future like the one in the Peripheral, he uses the same literary tool kit. "I partially inherited it from science fiction to examine the present in which the book is written," he says. "What changes is the world I find myself in."



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Give your coffee table a makeover

What's inspiring, pretty to look at and can instantly show your guests just what great taste you've got? A coffee-table book, of course. Luckily, a slew of glossy fashion and beauty tomes have recently been released. Whether you're holiday gift-hunting or just want to treat yourself, these titles are worth checking out

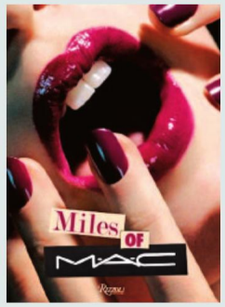
EMILY LAURENCE/ METRO IN NEW YORK CITY

Refinery 29: Style Stalking

Women's fashion and lifestyle website Refinery 29's new book is full of cool-girl street style. Not only does it explain how to master trends like tomboy-chic and modern metallics, it teaches readers how to develop their own signature style.

Vogue & The Metropolitan Museum Of Art Costume Institute: Parties, Exhibitions, People

This massive, glossy-paged tome gives readers an up-close look at the annual Met gala, and the exhibits that inspired each theme, such as 2001's Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years.

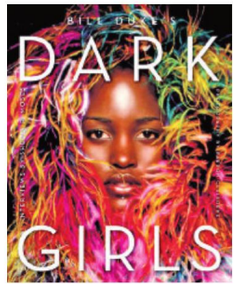


Miles of MAC

There is almost no text in this oversized, 250-page hardcover, but the photos speak volumes. Models in candy-coloured eyeshadows and lipsticks showcase the boundary-pushing esthetic that has been MAC's signature since its 1987 launch.

Dark Girls

What originated as a documentary on Oprah's network is now a beautiful hardback. Stunning photos of more than 75 women, including Lupita Nyong'o, Vanessa Williams, Loretta Devine and Judge Mablean Ephriam are included, but just as powerful are their stories about prejudices they've faced.



Tory Burch: In Color

Fashion designer Tory Burch's first book isn't just an exploration of her style esthetic, but also what inspires her interior design, her favourite places all over the world and photos from her childhood.

Make Up: Your Life Guide to Beauty, Style, and Success — Online and Off

YouTube star-turned-entrepreneur Michelle Phan shares her secrets to success — and not just her makeup secrets. Phan's modest approach to life makes it easy to believe you can have it all.

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Actors. Wahlberg's weight loss freaked out Michael Bay

Mark Wahlberg said Transformers director Michael Bay "freaked out" after the actor shed 60 pounds to play a down-on-his-luck college professor in his new movie, The Gambler.

Wahlberg began downsizing his famously muscular physique by jumping rope and sticking to a liquid diet as Transformers: Age of Extinction wrapped last year. He then shot The Gambler, set to open in theatres Dec. 19.

Transformers producers called for additional shooting after The Gambler wrapped, and Wahlberg wasn't exactly welcomed with open arms when he attended Bay's housewarming party earlier this year.

"He goes, 'You look like crap! What are you going to do? We've got to shoot in five weeks,"' Wahlberg said in an interview before his new film's AFI Fest premiere Monday night.

"I probably put on 40 pounds back. But it still wasn't enough for him. He said, 'Aw, I've got to shoot you like this to make you look cool again,"' the 43-year-old actor said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Wahlberg lost 40 pounds for his role in The Gambler, much to the chagrin of Transformers producer Michael Bay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reunion. De Niro tapped to work with JLaw again

Robert De Niro is in talks to join the next feature from David O. Russell, who directed De Niro and Jennifer Lawrence in the 2012 film Silver Linings Playbook.

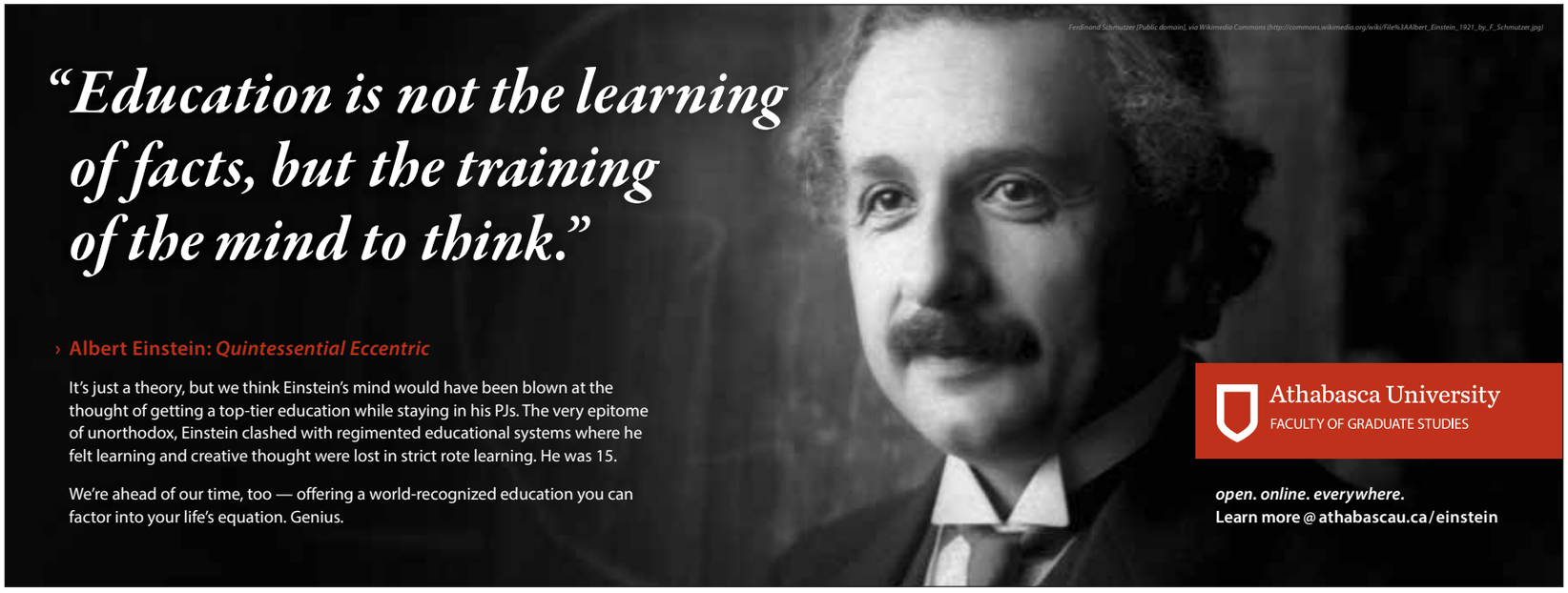
The film, titled Joy, is inspired by the biography of Joy Mangano, the single mother of three who invented the Miracle Mop and made a fortune in the 1990s selling the product on the Home Shopping Network.

While Jennifer Lawrence has been attached in the title role since January, The Hollywood Reporter learned this week that Robert De Niro is in talks to play her father.

The two actors previously worked together in David O. Russell's Silver Linings Playbook. Lawrence was also seen in the director's most recent film, American Hustle, for which she earned a Golden Globe for best supporting actress.

Joy is due in theatres on December 25, 2015.

AFP


"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."
Ferdinand Schmutzer [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AAlbert_Einstein_1921_by_F_Schmutzer.jpg)
› Albert Einstein: Quintessential Eccentric
It's just a theory, but we think Einstein's mind would have been blown at the thought of getting a top-tier education while staying in his PJs. The very epitome of unorthodox, Einstein clashed with regimented educational systems where he felt learning and creative thought were lost in strict rote learning. He was 15.
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Harry and Lloyd are just putting out the vibe

Movies. Twenty years after Dumb and Dumber, Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels say it was easy to reprise their roles as a couple of sweet savants

Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels made another Dumb & Dumber film because fans asked for it, and the two actors said making the sequel was more fun than working on the 1994 original.

"We were kind of just meeting each other as we were doing the first one," Daniels said in a recent interview to support the release of the film.

"You got two different acting styles going on — is it going to even work? And the first one, we guessed right, and it did ...

"Now it's just a lot easier. We know more, we know what's funny, we know the two characters well — all the stuff we didn't know in the first one we already know in the second one, so we just get to do it again, only we hope better."

"And we were blood doping," Carrey added.

"So that made it easier."

Daniels and Carrey reprise their roles as painfully dim pals Harry and Lloyd in Dumb & Dumber To, opening Friday.

Reuniting on a sequel 20 years after the original wasn't hard, Carrey said.

"Honestly, it was like we just did it yesterday and boom, we were back in it," he said.

"It was a fantastic, familiar feeling."

Daniels was delighted to return to comedy after spending the past three seasons starring in the Aaron Sorkin TV drama, The Newsroom.

"Comedy is a joy," he said.

"There's a freedom to it. There's a fearlessness to it that you don't get in everything else.

"It was a thrill to do," he added.

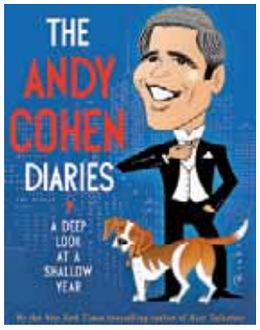
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels said in the first Dumb and Dumber, they took a risk riffing off each other's unique acting styles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Housewives exec offers real insights

Books. Andy Cohen initially left a lot of things out of his new memoir, then went back and filled in gaps

Andy Cohen, left, speaks with Teresa and Joe Giudice from The Real Housewives of New Jersey on his show, Watch What Happens Live. In his book, Cohen talks about his talk show and his role as a Housewives producer. CHARLES SYKES/BRAVO



Reading another person's diary is usually the stuff of daydreams or snooping, but Bravo Media's Watch What Happens Live host Andy Cohen is opening up his journal in The Andy Cohen Diaries: A Deep Look at a Shallow Year.

The book, published by Henry Holt and Co., is inspired by The Andy Warhol Diaries, published after the artist's death.

Cohen sat down at a midtown New York steakhouse owned by a close friend (often mentioned in his book) for a recent interview. He has a regular table across from his caricature that decorates the wall, along with hundreds of drawings of other celebrities.

The 46-year-old knows the staff and greets them by name. "It's my Regal Beagle," he joked, referring to the '70s sitcom Three's Company.

He talked about sharing his diary and being an executive producer of The Real Housewives shows.

Is it strange to put yourself out there and let people see who you are?

Yes, at first I went into this and I was like, 'I'm not going to talk about dating or boyfriends.' Then, months later, I went back and filled stuff in ... I was like, 'I'm just putting all this in there. It's just fun.' ... The longer you do something, you feel more open to the process.

There's an original entry about a Britney Spears interview where I had edited myself. I went back and was like, 'I need to put my real impressions of that day.' I have to book my show; I don't want to sell out my guests, but if Mariah Carey comes in, I want to tell people what that experience was like.

Will your fans know you better after reading this book?

I think they know a version of me (now). I think when you're live on TV in an unscripted environment, a lot slips through the cracks of your real self. People can read my face, they know what I'm thinking.

What's it like when you have friends as guests on your show? (Cohen's close pals include Sarah Jessica Parker, Liam Neeson, Anderson Cooper and Kelly Ripa.)

I remember one of the first times Sarah Jessica was on, I asked her about dating J.F.K. (John F. Kennedy) Jr., which is something we've certainly talked about off-camera. And I remember I turned to her in the commercial break and was like, 'Was that OK?' She gave me a sign, like it was fine, but surprising.

Which Real Housewives show is the most stressful?

It's all cyclical. It usually depends on what's in production and what's airing.

Do you listen to any of the feedback you get on the shows from social media?

You have to take it all with a grain of salt, but I pay attention to it. I write in the book that people were very vocal that we change up the New Jersey Housewives this season. We changed the cast and people were like, 'We don't like the new cast members. Bring back the originals.'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Neil Young answers critics, bares his soul, calls for action

Music. Singer's second album this year tackles big issues, with help of choir and orchestra

Neil Young's new album, Storytone, moves in many directions. GETTY IMAGES

"Who's gonna stand up and save the Earth," Neil Young sings twice on his new album — once to the songwriter's familiar guitar and also with a chorus and orchestra.

One answer, of course, is that Young himself will stand up. But the veteran protest singer also has plenty more on his mind on Storytone, not the least of which are his romantic travails.

Storytone is the second album by the prolific Canadian singer this year and sprawls in diverse directions, with Young performing with a choir, two large orchestras and a jazz-driven big band.

A deluxe version of his 35th album features solo versions of songs that fall more into his classic repertoire of guitar-driven folk-rock.

Young turns to the orchestra as his thoughts shift to matters of the heart, with the singer — who turns 69 next week — excited to have found love again and, at times, bristling at judgment from outsiders.

"So many people don't understand what it's like to be me," he sings to a solo piano, with orchestral arrangements filling the gaps between verses. "But I'm not different from anyone else / I'm glad I found you."

The singer filed for divorce this year from Pegi Young, his wife of 36 years. Pegi was presumed to be the subject of some of his most memorable love songs in the past, including 1992's Such a Woman, in which he sang, "Our love will live until the end of all time."

Since the divorce, gossip media have linked Young to actress and fellow activist Daryl Hannah. The relationship has played out increasingly in the public eye, with Young's former bandmate David Crosby chastising him over the divorce.

Young's warbling voice stretches its range as he explains his sentiments on Glimmer, singing to almost operatic strings, "Tough love can leave you almost alone / But new love brings back everything to you."

But he also retains his political edge, with strident calls to fight the "big machine" to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and end fracking, the deep-drilling for shale gas. "Take down the dams, stand up to oil / Protect the plants, and renew the soil," Young sings.

Young has no plans for retirement. Along with his environmental activism, he is soon releasing a second book and is developing Pono, which aims to bring high-quality audio to downloading.

"I'm just doing the things that I think I should do. A lot of what I do now is based on trying to get some lasting value out of the rest of my life and the notoriety that I've managed to get," he has said. AFP

TV. Mandy Moore loves stirring the pot on Red Band

Mandy Moore GETTY IMAGES FILE

Mandy Moore has stepped back into the spotlight with a recurring role on Fox's Red Band Society.

Red Band Society (airing Wednesdays at 8 p.m. EST) follows doctors and their long-term teen patients at a children's hospital.

Moore, a singer-actress known for her pop hit Candy, plays Dr. Erin Grace, the new chief of surgery. Her character had worked at the hospital, but took a year off to work with Doctors Without Borders. She had also dated Dave Annable's character, Dr. Adam McAndrew, and her promotion is one that he was gunning for.

"I've been brought in to sort of stir it up on the adult side," said Moore in a recent interview.

She was approached about the show before the part was written. She "loved everything" about the pilot.

"I really thought it was such a unique tone from everything else on TV right now," she said.

The 30-year-old, known for such films as A Walk to Remember and Saved!, wanted a job in television.

"I think it's the most enticing medium for an actor out there right now," she said.

Moore said she's been recording and hopes to release something early next year.

"The music industry has changed so dramatically in the last couple of years. It's a different mechanism in terms of how to put music out there and in what capacity. Having the freedom of no record label and none of that expectation is really nice on a creative level."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television

Jackson confirms he's quitting American Idol

Bad news for fans of original-recipe American Idol. The last remaining Season 1 judge, Randy Jackson, has announced he is leaving the show for good. Jackson wasn't technically a judge for the 13th season of the series — he stepped into the role of mentor — but now he's leaving for good. "After 13 seasons, I felt now was the perfect time to leave," he told People magazine. For those keeping track, Paula Abdul thought that perfect time was 2009, while Simon Cowell thought it was a year later. Ryan Seacrest, on the other hand, is perfectly happy sticking around and asking audiences to send text messages. Season 14 returns in January. METRO

Randy Jackson
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Photocredit: Glenbow Museum

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Mad Men wrap was a teary affair, Paré says

Television. Canadian star of popular drama says that the cast feels fortunate they got to end their story

Mad Men star Jessica Paré says it's been tough saying goodbye to the series.

"We're done and that's kind of painful," the Montreal-raised actress said at this week's Scotiabank Giller Prize in Toronto.

The AMC period drama's final season was split in half, with the first seven of 14 episodes debuting last spring and the rest set to air early next year.

Paré — who plays Don Draper's wife, Megan — said it was an emotional time when they finished shooting the last half of the seventh and final season in June.

"It was very teary," said the 33-year-old. "We're fortunate that we get to tell the end of our story. It's not a luxury afforded to many on TV, so I think it's a privilege. But I'm going to miss everybody."

Paré's Giller showing marked her first gala appearance since announcing last month that she's pregnant with her first child, with Quebec musician John Kastner.

She was at the Giller to present The Girl Who Was Saturday Night by Montreal's Heather O'Neill, who was one of six finalists for the $100,000 literary prize.

Sean Michaels of Montreal ended up winning the award for Us Conductors.

As a fellow Montrealer, Paré said she identified with O'Neill's book, which follows teenage twin children of a beloved Québécois folk singer. She's also a big fan of CanLit.

Quoted

"I've read so many. Margaret Laurence and Margaret Atwood are among my favourites."

Actress Jessica Paré, on her love for Canadian literature

"I've read so many (Canadian authors)," said Paré, whose other credits include the films Lost and Delirious and Suck.

"Margaret Laurence and Margaret Atwood are among my favourites of all time, and all of these authors that are here tonight, I enjoyed their books so immensely."

"We have some amazing storytellers in Canada telling some really great Canadian stories." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal-born actress Jessica Paré says she will miss her role as Don Draper's wife on Mad Men. GETTY IMAGES FILE

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Zachary Quinto ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Zachary's Out on his views about gay community

For Out magazine's 20th anniversary edition of its annual list of the most prominent LGBT personalities, the Out 100, the editors couldn't decide on a single honouree to feature on the cover. So they picked four. Copies of the magazine are going out featuring Zachary Quinto, Ellen Page, Sam Smith and Orange is the New Black star Samira Wiley. And they even get fun honorary titles, though they kind of all sound like the same thing: Quinto is the artist of the year, while Page is the entertainer of the year, Smith is the breakout of the Year and Wiley is the ingenue of the year.

Go ahead, switch those around and see if anything really changes. Quinto, for his part, uses his time with the magazine to try to combat an encroaching blasé attitude, especially among younger members of the gay community.

"I think there's a tremendous sense of complacency in the LGBT community," he says. "AIDS has lost the edge of horror it possessed when it swept through the world in the '80s. Today's generation sees it more as something to live with and something to be much less fearful of. And that comes with a sense of, dare I say, laziness."

The Word

Yes, Kim's a mom, butt can you expect any better of her?

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

It's still unclear whether Kim Kardashian's oiled-up, tush-exposing cover shot for Paper "broke the Internet," as the magazine was hoping — some might say it's been broken for a while already — but people definitely have opinions about it. While husband Kanye West was clearly supportive of her efforts, others were less than pleased. Comedian Billy Eichner went on a tear, offering several tweets about the photo, the best being, "Oh God look at what Renee Zellweger did now!" But others didn't find the situation so humorous. Glee star Naya Rivera popped up on Kardashian's Instagram post with the comment, "I normally don't, but … you're someone's mother." True, but she also built a multimillion-dollar media empire off of just one homemade sex tape, so let's not all act so surprised.

Twitter

@joelmchale
Alright turkeys. If you have anything else you want to say to your families, now's the time to say it.

@SethMacFarlane
Hey elephants: FYI you guys are f---ing HUGE. Stop letting everyone s--- on you.

@AlbertBrooks
I have to point out that no one has seen Garth

Nia Vardalos

My Big Fat Greek Wedding is getting a honeymoon

It's only taken 12 years, but you're finally getting that My Big Fat Greek Wedding sequel you didn't really ask for. Nia Vardalos will once again write and star alongside John Corbett — apparently both were still available — in a sequel that will feature yet another wedding and, I'm assuming, a fresh take on how kooky Greek-Americans are. What to Expect When You're Expecting director Kirk Jones will be heading things up, with Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson producing again. Does this mean my hopes for a sequel to Rounders aren't completely dead?

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When it comes to evening attire, little black dresses aren't the only way to make an impression. And there's no time like the winter holidays to step out in something more dazzling. These shimmery skirts and dresses are just the thing.

AFP WITH FILES FROM METRO

Gold

A gold tunic dress sticks to simpler tailoring, letting the sequins do all the talking. This flashy piece can be worn with a pair of black tights to tone down the look.

Marks and Spencer Dress, $155.26, marksandspencer.com

Colours

Gold isn't the only colour that shimmers and shines. How about a sassy number from H&M covered in iridescent green sequins, or a chic off-the-shoulder dress that will make heads turn at any holiday party?

H&M Dress, $14.95, hm.com

Banana Republic Off the Shoulder Dress $175, bananarepublic.ca

Skirts

Of course, the all-over-sequins look is not for everyone. For those who prefer something more subtle, there is always the option of a sequined miniskirt, to be paired with a tame and understated top for an interesting contrast. Or a sleek black and white pencil skirt for an elegant seasonal statement.

Banana Republic Skirt, $110, bananarepublic.ca

GUESS Sequin Miniskirt, $69.50, guess.ca

2 holiday picks for the boys

Frank & Oak Cuff Links in Brass, $35, frankandoak.com

Dr. Martens Tassle Loafer, $160, drmartenscanada

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Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Liat

Age: 37

Occupation: Fashion blogger and editor

What she's wearing
Shoes and skirt from Zara, bag and sweater from French Connection, TopShop jacket, Urban Outfitters sunglasses.

Her inspiration
"I find inspiration from different cultures, music and art. I always look at fashion magazines and other bloggers for inspiration. I love Alexa Chung's style as well as Sienna Miller. I like to experiment with clothes and mixing different elements together."

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Trends Report

Looking for some style inspiration during holiday party season? Go online to Trends Report and find out how a little sheer dress can go a long way in helping you stand out from a crowd.

- **Online.** metronews.ca/trends-report
- **Follow** Irene on Twitter @MetroIreneK and Instagram @kuanirene
- **Photo** Model Lily Aldridge arrives on the red carpet at the CMA Awards in Nashville. (Getty Images)

From cover girl to garment

Style. RW & Co, Elle Canada revamp fashion industry with entrepreneurial partnership

TAKARA SMALL
Metro in Toronto

Pieces in the Elle by RW&CO collection are available in size 00 to 14 and range in price from $149.90 to 169.90. PROVIDED

Canada's fashion landscape is getting a makeover.

A unique entrepreneurial endeavour between fashion magazine Elle Canada and retail chain RW&CO is pairing the popular publication's fashion director Denis Desro with the company's designers to create a one-off collection of clothing for the brand, entitled Elle by RW&CO.

"The Canadian market is very competitive," says RW&CO's PR supervisor, Karine Lapare. "Magazines and retailers have to look for new opportunities to get readers and customers interested in their message."

While collaboration in the clothing world is not a new concept (note H&M's recent pairing with Alexander Wang), Lapare suspects this is one the first times a Canadian magazine brand has lent its style-savvy voice to a retail collection.

The decision to blend the two worlds was a product of tough economic times for both industries, with higher-ups realizing they could lend each other a hand in a market where consumers of both news and apparel are becoming increasingly uninspired by repetitive and unreliable products.

"We selected Elle as a partner because they are a luxury brand with high fashion credibility, accessibility and global awareness," says Ève Miron, fashion and merchandising manager for RW & CO. "Denis saw what we were coming up with but he brought the shapes to the next level. Pushing the volumes, changing the lengths."

The one-time holiday collection took less than a year to produce from inspiration to its November release date.

"It is for a woman who wants to look beautiful," says Elle Canada's Denis Desro. "This is for the Elle woman who wants to look good for a good price."

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Mushroom's time to shine

This recipe serves four to six. RYAN SZULC

Mushroom, Leek and Gruyère Tart. With a puff pastry base, the flavours of this dish come together perfectly

"If vegetables were looking to elect a spokesperson, I'd nominate mushrooms," writes Charmian Christie in The Messy Baker.

"A bit of heat brings out the best in them. And when things get downright hot, they maintain their composure, refusing to dissolve into an incoherent mash.

"They work graciously with almost any herb, are effusively complementary to dairy, and are as comfortable with fancy-dress pastry as they are with a Casual Friday slice of toast.

"With a support staff of herbs, cheese, and garlic, this recipe lets the earthiness of mushrooms shine."

Ingredients

- 1 sheet commercial puff pastry
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves only
- 2 cups thinly sliced leeks, white parts only, sliced lengthwise and slivered into half moons
- 16 oz cremini or Portobello mushrooms, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Ground black pepper (optional)
- 3 oz grated Gruyère cheese

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F.

2. On a sheet of parchment paper cut to fit a rimmed baking sheet, roll the puff pastry sheet out to a 10-inch square. Using a sharp knife, gently score the pastry an inch inside the outer edge, being careful not to cut all the way through. Place the parchment with the scored pastry onto a rimmed baking sheet. Refrigerate while you prepare the filling.

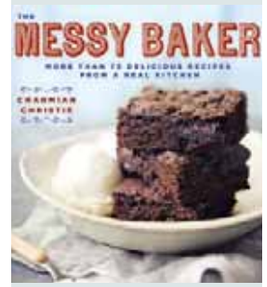
3. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt the butter. When it bubbles, grate the garlic on a microplane into the pan. Add the thyme. Cook gently for 1 minute. Add the leeks and cook until they begin to soften. Add the mushrooms and cook until they are soft, but not weeping, juices. Place the mushroom filling into a strainer and let drain for a few minutes.

4. Spoon the mushroom filling onto the pastry, being careful to keep inside the score marks. Add a grinding of fresh black pepper, if using. Bake for 15 minutes. Remove the tart from the oven and sprinkle with the cheese. Bake for 5 minutes, or until the cheese has melted and the pastry is golden brown. Serve while hot.

THE MESSY BAKER BY CHARMIAN CHRISTIE 2014. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS CANADA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cookbook of the Week

Get your hands dirty for a tasty cause



Forget the perfectly shaped cookies and layers that are exactly the same height.

The Messy Baker by Charmian Christie is all about real-world baking — in its sweet, messy, fun and not always gorgeous glory. Featuring more than 75 recipes, the book also guides readers through collapsed crusts or frosting smears with practical advice.

Among included recipes are: Sweet Potato Samosas, Stuffed French Toast, Whiskey-Kissed Pecan Pie, Blueberry-Lime Cornmeal Muffins and more. METRO

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Legal Matters

Timing is everything

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

We are closing our new home on Thursday and went to the bank to sign all of the mortgage documents at the beginning of the week. Our lawyer is telling us that they don't have mortgage instructions so they cannot draft documents and move forward with our transaction. It is now Wednesday afternoon and we don't know when we can sign documents and bring in the largest amount of money we have ever paid to anyone in order to close our first home. Our banking officer is telling us they submitted the application after we were in the branch on Monday evening so there should be no problem. Obviously, there is some communication breakdown and we don't know who to listen to. What should we do?

This is an all-too-frequent problem where the bank thinks it is onside and your lawyer is out in left field. The reality is that once you sign a mortgage commitment with a financial institution, it normally takes three to five business days before they issue mortgage instructions to your lawyer so she can prepare your signing paperwork (this usually takes a couple of days after receipt).

So going into your bank two business days before you are scheduled to close the purchase of your new home is basically way too late. You will be in a huge problem with your bank and your lawyer.

End result: You need to phone your bank immediately and get them to expedite the mortgage instruction process. This is a process that your lawyer can manage if you speak to them about the timing of your transacation.

Stressful! Wow.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.

Is an open house a good way to sell?

Real estate. Serious buyers for a condo are more likely to book a tour than go to an open house, realtor says

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Open houses are great for getting exposure but not so great for making a sale, statistics show. DUNCAN MCALLISTER

It's the high season in real estate, with hundreds of enticing open house signs lining the streets of Toronto.

While this open-doors ritual attracts many potential buyers, it also attracts the elusive "lookie-loo."

What the heck is a lookie-loo, you may ask?

"It's a very unique term specifically used in real estate. It's another word for tire kickers, people who are not high intent," explains Rokham Fard, co-founder of real estate brokerage TheRedPin.com.

A lookie-loo enjoys poking around other peoples' homes.

"Open houses by nature tend to be a sort of entertainment for some people. Just as the MLS itself is — a lot of people just like to look at homes. They either get ideas or it's just an interesting way to kill time for them," says Fard.

An open house is just that: open. That guarantees you will get people coming through who have no intention of buying a condo. To help sellers identify the nosy neighbours and tag the time wasters, TheRedPin.com commissioned body language expert, author and international keynote speaker Mark Bowden to develop the world's first comprehensive field guide for identifying lookie-loos.

"Searching for a home is a process," explains Bowden. "Couples discover what they like and don't like by looking and discussing. If two people are in complete agreement, they're probably voyeurs, not buyers."

Do open houses really work?

Some sellers insist on having them, but the truth is that, although it does account for some exposure, you are only marginally increasing your chances of selling your condo.

According to statistics, open houses only account for five per cent of sales.

"At the end of the day, it is not the majority of sales that come out of it. Usually you do it on the first week that you list your home, so you get the absolute maximum amount of exposure up front," says Fard.

With virtual tours and a wealth of online real estate tools, sophisticated buyers are spending less time driving to open houses and directly targeting the properties most suitable for their needs.

"The majority of people, they start their search online, they assess it online," says Fard. "Unless they are really interested, they're not going to wait for the open house. They're just going to book a time and go see the home."

Quoted

"The majority of people, they start their search online, they assess it online. Unless they are really interested, they're not going to wait for the open house. They're just going to book a time and go see the home."

Rokham Fard, co-founder of TheRedPin.com

Looking for virtual tours?

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Meet the condo

- **What.** The Residences of 488 University Avenue
- **Builder.** Amexon Development Corporation, Toddglen Construction
- **Architect.** Core Architects
- **Designer.** II BY IV Design
- **Location.** University Avenue at Dundas Street
- **Building.** 55-storey tower with 453 units
- **Sizes.** 544 to 1,620 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** $403,800 to $1,370,000
- **Status.** Pre-construction
- **Occupancy.** November 2017
- **Website.** 488university.com

The project overview

A glass-and-steel tower ascending from a glass-enclosed podium with a 50-foot-high atrium, the building features suites at a prime address with sophisticated layouts, rich colours, floor-to-ceiling windows, oversize terraces and detailed finishes.

Building amenities

The building boasts 30,000 sq. ft. of amenities. The SkyClub fitness centre consists of a resort-style spa with both indoor and outdoor pools, squash court and yoga studio. There's a screening room, a sun deck, residents' lounges and event rooms.

Location and transit

Centrally located on University Avenue, the building will have direct access to the St. Patrick subway station and is within walking distance to the financial district. Motorists enjoy quick access to the Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard.

In the neighbourhood

The highly walkable location offers fashion boutiques, cultural venues, specialty markets, coffee shops and restaurants. Area attractions include the Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Four Seasons Centre for the Arts.

Infrastructure

Don't leave new neighbours with the bill

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

A recent report written by economist Frank Clayton and published by the Centre for Urban Research and Development (CUR) identified the economic consequences of relying on development charges to fund growth-related water and wastewater infrastructure.

It explains that growth-related water and wastewater capital costs are funded through development charges — amounting up to $26,000 per new home paid by the purchaser — while other utilities like natural gas, telecommunications and electricity, simply price their services to cover all current and capital costs and generate a profit.

Funding water and wastewater providers differently than other similar businesses is unfair to new home and business purchasers.

It's great to see experts confirming what our association has been saying for many years. BILD has long advocated for fair and reasonable development charges across the GTA, as it is not the new neighbours' responsibility to fund infrastructure that all residents will use for generations to come.

Development charges have played a key role in the increasing cost of new and existing housing across the region, making it difficult for GTA residents to be able to afford a home. They also act as a barrier to growth of local businesses, who are finding it challenging to remain competitive in the marketplace.

To ensure that our industry can continue to build homes that people can afford, and to ensure that local businesses can remain competitive, it is important to look into all available sources of revenue and different, proven models to deliver much-needed infrastructure to GTA residents.

Clayton concludes that shifting the financing from development charges to user fees over a transitional period of five years would have a number of benefits to the wider community in the GTA.

He recommends that these new utilities be administered by a board of directors consisting of members from the business community, with municipal politicians and staff playing a limited role.

To read the report or learn more about CUR, please visit ryerson.ca/cur.

What's hot on the condo market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Dundas Square

New Release: The University Collection at Dundas Square Gardens condominiums is offering incentives on studio to two-bedroom suites. Visit the presentation centre at 200 Dundas St. E., second floor, Nov. 15 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-645-8575, DUNDASSQUAREGARDENS.COM

2. Don Mills

Sales Event: Emerald City condominiums is having a one-day-only year-end sale on suites in Tower One at Don Mills and Sheppard. Visit the temporary presentation centre at 62 Forest Manor Rd., on Nov. 15 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-492-0001, EMERALDCITYLIFE.CA

3. Mississauga

Grand Opening: The Anchors at Lakeview East condo townhomes in Mississauga. Head on over to the sales centre at 1381 Lakeshore Rd. E., on Nov. 15 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: 905-990-1745, ANCHORSATLAKEVIEW.COM

4. Downtown

Sales Event: The Canary Park condominiums will be hosting a Brika pop-up shop at their new sales centre on Nov. 15 and 16 from 12 to 5 p.m. Head over to 398 Front St. E., for all your artisanal crafts and gift needs.

CONTACT: 416-603-7576, CANARYDISTRICT.COM

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*Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. Rendering is artist's concept. E.&O.E.

Repaint that worn-out tub and then reward yourself with a candlelit bath. ISTOCK

Ready to take the plunge? Refinish your old bathtub

DIY. Paint that tired tub, then add a few spa-like accessories and soak up the new vibe

Bathrooms might not always be the most welcoming space in a home, but they're among the rooms we use every day. Which means they can start to show wear and tear more quickly than expected.

The bathtub is one area that can begin to rust, crack or mould. With a little help and fixing-up, your tub can look better than ever.

More bathroom projects

For more bathroom renovation projects, catch all new back-to-back episode of Bath Crashers Wednesdays at 9 p.m. ET/PT on DIY Network Canada.

Here are some tips on how to upgrade and transform the bath area into a relaxing space to escape cold winter weather.

Making the upgrade

To avoid the expensive costs of replacing a tub, re-painting it is a quick fix at an affordable price.

First, purchase bathtub paint or a tub/tile refinishing kit from a local hardware store. Next, make sure to remove all excess debris in and around the tub.

Proceed to give it a good scrub with a bleach-based product to help remove any grime or gloss. Once clean, sand down the tub with 400-600 grit wet/dry sandpaper and rinse away the dirt as you work.

Before going any further, make sure to have a respiratory mask, chemical goggles, and gloves to remain protected from the fumes. The products are extremely strong, so be sure to turn on the vent in the washroom, place a fan near the door and open windows throughout the home.

Apply two to three smooth, thin coats of paint and allow approximately one to two hours for drying.

Note that the paint gets very sticky, so try to apply it quickly. Let everything dry and remember not to use the bath at any point during the process.

Glam it up

Once the heavy duty work is complete, complement the new tub with other decorative elements.

Replace the shower rod with a new one or repaint the existing one for a fresh look. Select a funky shower curtain to incorporate some colour into the bathroom.

Add candles or flowers to the surrounding area to give it a spa-like feel or display bath salts in glass jars. Finally, consider upgrading the shower head or the faucet for a sharper look.

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Furniture. Charles and Ray Eames' Soft Pad chair gets design revamp

Swiss design brand Vitra has unveiled its Soft Pad chair collection in a new autumnal colour palette for the cold season.

Created by famous American designers Charles and Ray Eames in 1969, the Soft Pad combines an industrial metal frame with soft cushioning for a voluptuous esthetic.

The design has been modified to incorporate viscoelastic foam and a new colour palette in semi-aniline leather with a natural grain and an appealingly soft surface.

Created by Hella Jongerius, the new colourways encompass a range of 22 muted, earthy shades which highlight the natural quality and smooth texture of this fine leather. The new designs were unveiled earlier this month at Orgatec.

The hues come in three colour groups: warm reddish-browns, cool greens and blues, and contrasting shades with a focus on white-grey-black. The new look also includes contrast stitching, which lends them a hand-crafted quality.

Contemporary studio Vitra was founded in 1934 as a shop-fitting business and has gone on to become one of the most pioneering names in the interior design business. AFP

The Soft Pad collection VITRA

Gadgets. Space-saving fridge magnets let beer just hang out and chill

Screen shot from the promo video for BottleLoft. STRONG LIKE BULL MAGNETS/KICKSTARTER

Have you ever thought about using magnets to hang your beers from the refrigerator to create more storage space?

BottleLoft is a new magnetic strip designed to do exactly that, utilizing the oft-wasted space at the top of the fridge to store bottles.

The invention comes in the form of plastic strips eight inches long, which are attached to the ceiling of the fridge. Each strip features three steel cups fitted with grade N52 neodymium magnets.

Each magnet is capable of holding up to 3.6 lb. in weight (the average 12-ounce bottle weighs 1.2 lb. according to the designers), meaning there's no risk of the beverages falling and crushing your cheese.

The brainchild of Brian Conti of the magnet company Strong Like Bull, BottleLoft is currently listed on crowdfunding website Kickstarter, where it has already more than doubled its original funding goal of $20,000.

BottleLoft can be ordered for pledges starting from $20, with the product expected to ship in January 2015. AFP

Technology

Mini speaker is an acoustic genie

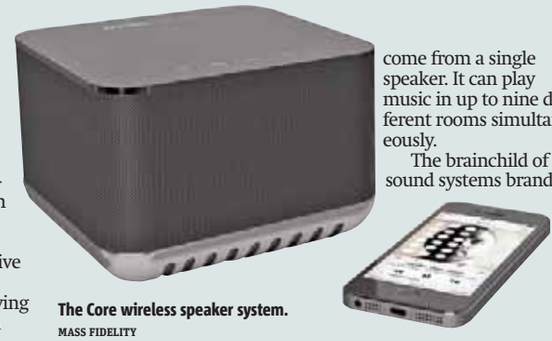
A hand-sized portable wireless speaker has taken Indiegogo by storm to become the platform's top-funded Canadian campaign in history.

The Core is a slick box-shaped speaker featuring five digital signal processors to produce stereo sound, proving that high-quality audio can come from a single speaker. It can play music in up to nine different rooms simultaneously.

The brainchild of sound systems brand Mass Fidelity, it features gesture control which allows users to skip tracks by simply waving their hand when connected to their Bluetooth devices, and can play music from wired sound sources such as CD players and turntables.

Both iOS and Android compatible, it has a battery life of 12 hours and can be used to answer phone calls.

The speakers are set to ship from March 2015. AFP



The Core wireless speaker system. MASS FIDELITY

Furniture

Form Us With Love partners with Ikea on new stackable chair

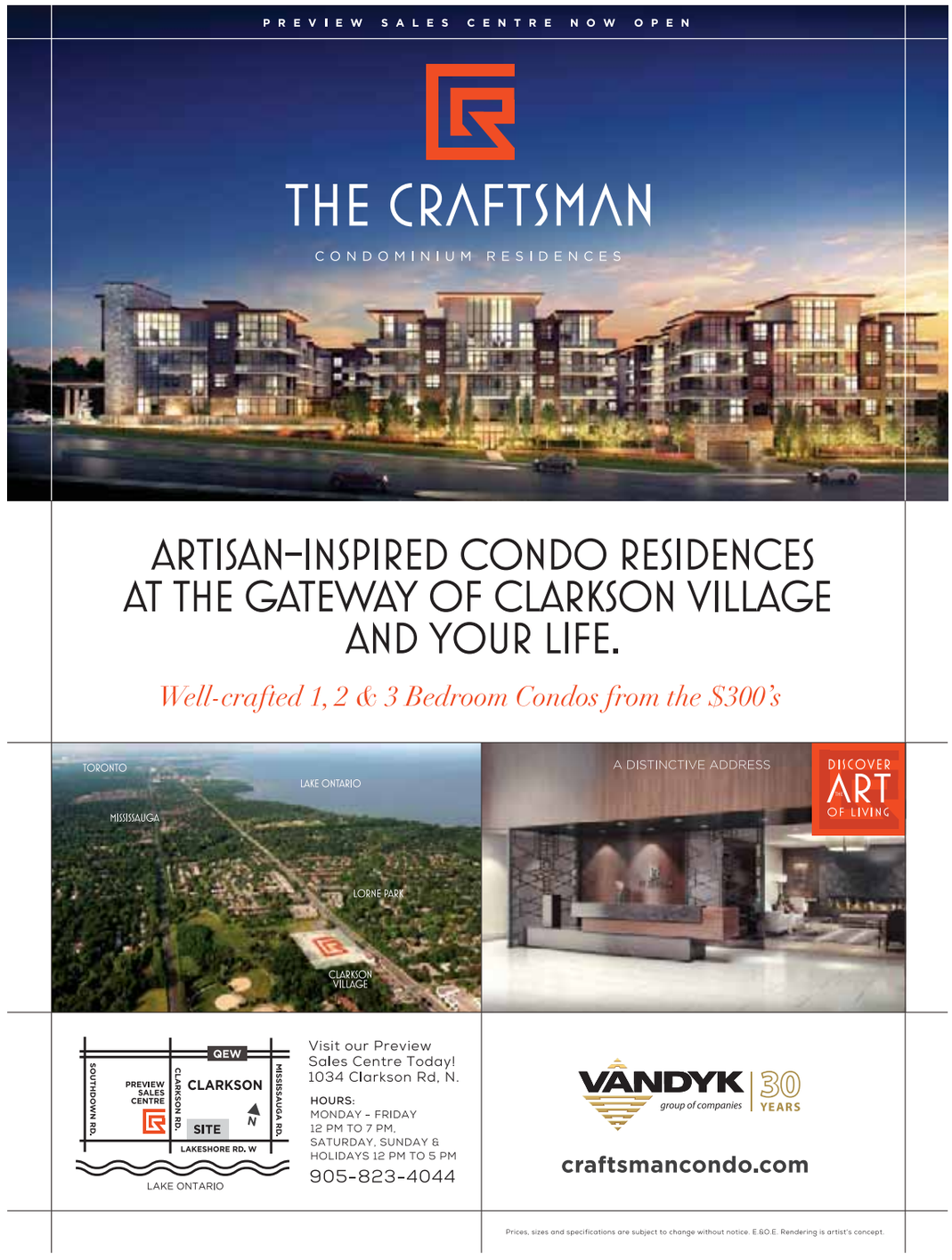
Swedish design studio Form Us With Love has teamed up with Ikea to lend its contemporary edge to an affordable range of plastic seating.

The Janinge collection comprises stackable chairs and stools that blend functionality, style and durability.

Suitable for indoor and outdoor use, the collection comes in a colour palette of light grey, crisp white and bright yellow.

Inspired by old Scandinavian wooden frames, the chairs are fabricated from a combination of polypropylene, glass fibre and pigment. AFP

Janinge for Ikea FORM US WITH LOVE



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A tuck-away wall bed can replace large, bulky beds in studio apartments and can turn a home office or den into an instant spare bedroom. Coventry Upright Wall Bed in walnut finish, $1930, techcraftstyle.ca. CONTRIBUTED

Make the best of a bed situation

Small spaces.
A reader needs some sleeping solutions for a studio apartment

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

I recently moved to a studio and am having a hard time separating my living and sleeping areas. Is there a sophisticated option you can suggest that would allow for more room during the day or when company is over, but also a comfortable sleep at night? — Ben

I suggest investing in a Murphy-style wall bed for your space. It has the look of a tall cabinet, but conceals your mattress, bedding and pillows. You can pull your bed down into the room for sleeping and, when tucked away, it will save valuable floor space by day.

There are many styles and finishes to choose from. The beds are very easy to install and use — hydraulic hinges help pull them down — and will allow your space to be used for exercise, entertaining or working.

A wall bed is an investment that compares to the cost of built-in cabinets, but often adds value to small spaces when reselling.

Separating living from sleeping quarters

Not into wall beds? Try this

Here are other ways to make your studio feel more like a large living space rather than a bedroom:

• Go back-to-back

Place the head of your bed against the back of the sofa and float them in the room like an island. The upholstered back of your sofa will then act as a headboard.

Hang a sheer-type drape between the bed and sofa to create a visual barrier that still allows light to filter into the living-room seating space.

• Invest in a sofa bed

Invest in a quality sofa bed. Many good sofa beds are made for every-night sleep, long-lasting use and comfort. With this option I suggest investing in a thicker mattress option (mattresses in standard sofa beds are 3-4 inches; I suggest a 6-8 inch mattress to give you the comfort of a regular bed mattress. Adding a memory foam mattress topper can also provide a luxurious feel.

• Opt for a daybed

Filled with pillows, a large can be a comfortable place to hang out, acting as your sofa by day and, when the pillows are removed, your bed by night.

• Dresser end tables

Use small dressers as end tables, bar tops and to display your TV. They will offer much needed storage. Add a glass or stone top for a sophisticated look.

Use books and art to tell a room's story

Decor. Dramatically change the look of any space simply by rearranging items on bookshelves, tabletops

An artfully decorated bookcase features a painted interior that provides a striking backdrop for a collection of books. M. DESIGN INTERIORS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Designers often surprise their clients by sharing a secret: Just as fashion accessories can have a big impact on an outfit, the items you display on shelves and tables can have a powerful effect on the style of any room.

Yet we often pay little attention to these spaces. Shelves get cluttered with stuff we've gotten as gifts or things we're not sure where to store.

Think about "how the items you're displaying will continue the story you're trying to tell in your space," advises designer Brian Patrick Flynn, founder of the Flynnside Out design blog.

A little editing of your collection can help banish clutter, and putting different items in the spotlight can reveal fresh combinations of things you already own.

Begin by exploring photos of bookshelves and tables on Pinterest, or other websites or magazines, suggests interior designer Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design, in Los Angeles. Once you've got some ideas bubbling, it's time to dive in.

Clear, then classify

First, empty all the shelves and tables from one or several rooms. Place all the items on the floor. Begin grouping them however you wish: by colour, texture, type of object or any other classification.

Look for patterns. You might find, for example, that you have several items relating to animals, or more pieces of brass or stone than you realized, says designer Molly Luetkemeyer of M. Design Interiors in Los Angeles.

Eliminate things that aren't your taste anymore or don't fit the room. We tend to add to our shelves and tables over time, Burnham says, so paring down from time to time is necessary.

Look inside

Before putting anything back on the shelves, consider painting a bookshelf's interior, or covering the wall behind an open bookshelf with wallpaper or another wall covering.

"The back panels of built-ins and bookshelves act just like backdrops to a TV set or a stage," says Flynn. "I usually paint the back panels the same colours as a room's walls, or I use wallpaper or grasscloth to introduce texture and create visual tension between the graphic shapes of books, picture frames and objects."

Once you've prepared that canvas, it's time to begin putting stuff back.

Mix and match

Besides clustering some items by colour, subject matter or material, also think about shape and height. And don't be afraid to mix art objects with books, or decorative boxes with vases of flowers.

All three designers suggest varying the orientation of your books' spines.

Burnham suggests gathering smaller items in decorative trays or bowls.

"One of the most interesting ways to define space on a coffee table or sideboard is using trays," she says. To bring style to a coffee table, stack several books on a large decorative tray, then "have a smaller tray where you put your TV remotes. You're making the mundane stuff orderly, you're giving it some form, and you're actually corralling it and making sense of it."

Take time to experiment with each shelf or table. Again, consider the story the room is telling.

"If you're someone who's a world traveller, keep things totally random and collected, or arranged artfully like a curated gallery collection," Flynn says. "If you're all about a colour scheme, layer objects so that the colours continue to finish the room's palette. But make sure you slightly throw the colours off, so it's not super matchy."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Leafs light up Rask, Bruins at ACC

The Maple Leafs celebrate Phil Kessel's first-period goal on Boston goalie Tuukka Rask on Wednesday night at Air Canada Centre. Kessel added another goal 18 seconds into the second period and Morgan Rielly and Tyler Bozak added tallies to chase Rask from the net. James van Riemsdyk's goal had Toronto leading 5-0 before the game's halfway point. The Leafs led 5-1 after two periods, but have been known to blow big leads to the Bruins, so go to metronews.ca for the final score and more Leafs coverage. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

McDavid's WJC in doubt after injury

Junior hockey. Projected No. 1 2015 NHL draft pick breaks bone in hand with world juniors just over six weeks away

Connor McDavid broke a bone in his right hand in a fight against the Mississauga Steelheads' Bryson Cianfrone on Tuesday night. DENNIS PAJOT/GETTY IMAGES

Connor McDavid will be out five to six weeks with a fractured bone in his right hand, an injury that could put his participation for Canada in the world junior championship in doubt.

The Erie Otters announced Wednesday afternoon that McDavid suffered a fracture of the fifth metacarpal bone in a fight Tuesday night with Mississauga's Bryson Cianfrone when his punch missed and hit the top of the boards. The fractured bone extends from the base of the pinkie finger to the wrist.

McDavid will not need surgery.

The 17-year-old junior phenom saw a hand specialist in Toronto, as X-rays after Tuesday's game were not definitive.

McDavid will almost certainly miss Canada's world junior camp in mid-December. Hockey Canada must finalize its roster for the tournament Dec. 25, and the team plays its first game Dec. 26 in Montreal against Slovakia.

Reached by phone at his hotel in Regina before official word of a time frame, Canadian world junior coach Benoit Groulx said it's too early to know about McDavid's status for that tournament. He said Hockey Canada would stay in touch with the Otters and continue to monitor the situation.

"There is several weeks before world juniors, so it's too early to know," Groulx said. "We hope that he'll be able to be there, but I don't have that answer yet."

McDavid's injury ignited debate around hockey about whether star players should be fighting. This was officially McDavid's second fight of the season.

"I don't think this is a guy that goes out and does it all the time," Boston head coach Claude Julien said at the Bruins' morning skate before their game against the Toronto Maple Leafs. "Those things are going to happen, unfortunately. For a guy like him, he's trying to show that he'll do whatever it takes to be a help to his hockey club."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Otters lose junior's best

Connor McDavid, a native of Newmarket, leads the Ontario Hockey League with 16 goals and 35 assists in just 18 games this season.

- His Erie Otters are the Canadian Hockey League's top-ranked team with a 16-1-0-1 record.

Fatal car accident

Taveras was drunk at time of crash, official says

St. Louis Cardinals rookie outfielder Oscar Taveras was drunk at the time of his fatal car crash last month in his Caribbean homeland, an official in the Dominican Republic said Wednesday.

Tessie Sanchez, a spokeswoman for the Dominican attorney general's office, told The Associated Press toxicology reports showed Taveras had a blood-alcohol level five times the country's legal limit when he lost control of his car Oct. 26 on a highway in the tourist region of Puerto Plata.

Taveras' 18-year-old girlfriend, Edilia Arvelo, was in his 2014 Chevy Camaro when it ran off the road. She also died.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATP Finals

Djokovic a win away from year-end supremacy

Novak Djokovic lost the first two games of his match against Stan Wawrinka. After that, there was no stopping the world No. 1.

The top-ranked Serb stayed calm, withstood the early assault from the third-seeded Swiss, and then crushed him 6-3, 6-0 at the ATP Finals on Wednesday in London to close in on the coveted year-end No. 1 spot.

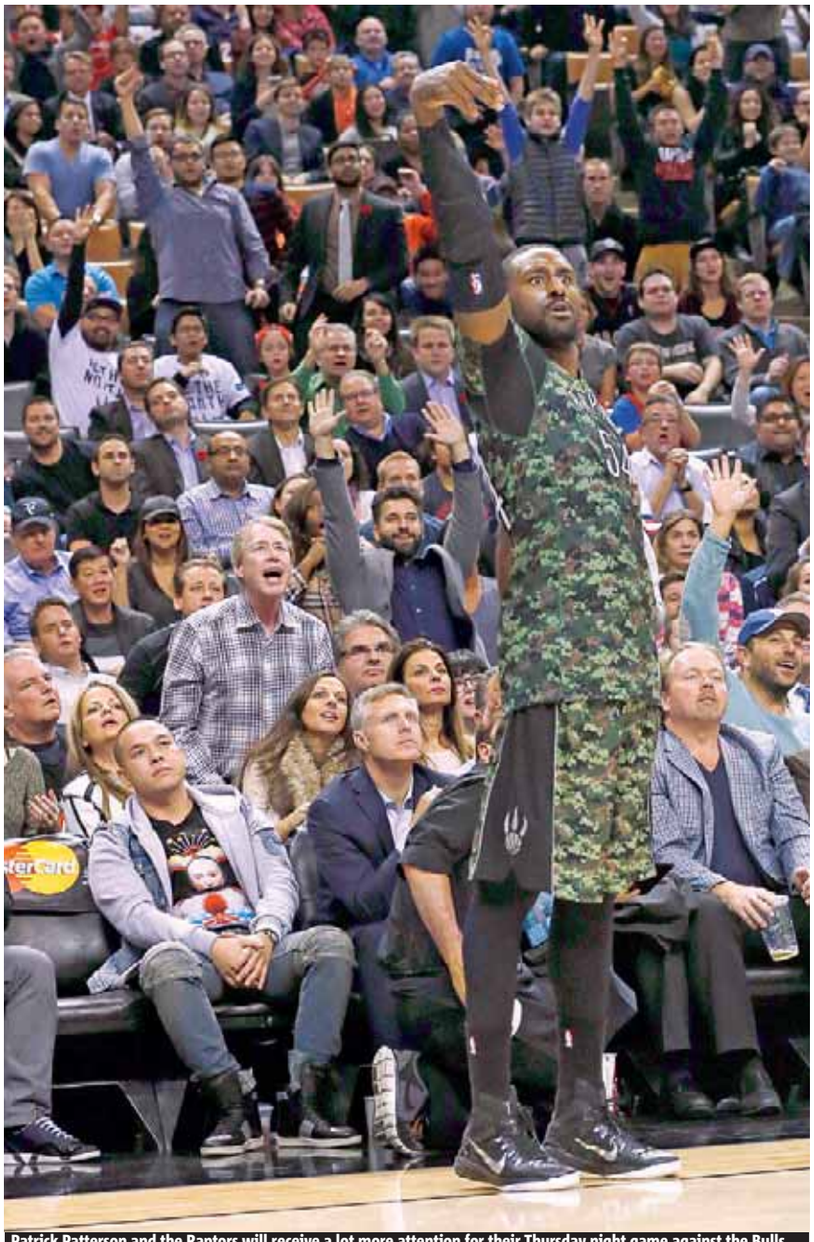
He's guaranteed to finish top of the rankings for the third time in four years if he wins his final round-robin match at the elite tournament against Tomas Berdych.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milos' missing power

"Whatever the reason is, I have 24 hours to solve it. I'm going to need to (fix it) if I want to have any hope. There's no way around that. It's something I've got to do."

Milos Raonic on his surprisingly muted serve at the ATP Finals in O2 Arena.
The usually powerful Canadian struggled in his first two round-robin matches at the season-ending event, bowing in straight sets to Roger Federer on Sunday and Andy Murray on Tuesday.



Patrick Patterson and the Raptors will receive a lot more attention for their Thursday night game against the Bulls with it being aired on TNT in the United States. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raptors in spotlight for tilt vs. Bulls

NBA. Perfect home record on the line in TNT-featured game but Toronto team more focused on 'trying to establish our identity'

To some it means everything, in reality it means next to nothing and that the chatter about the next Raptors game in the marathon that is the NBA regular season is more focused on TV networks than opponents might be a good thing.

The TNT aspect of Thursday's outing at the Air Canada Centre is a nice one-off talking point and takes away from anyone obsessing about the game against the Chicago Bulls being something more than it is.

Yes, the Raptors lead the league's Eastern Conference with a 7-1 record and are unbeaten at home with the Bulls right behind them at 6-2 and first place is indeed at stake.

But considering the point in the season, it's not like the outing is any kind of "statement" game.

"We're still trying to establish our identity," coach Dwane Casey said.

And the Raptors are under no illusions about where they are in the conference pecking order, regardless of what the standings say today.

"This is a team we have to look up to and look to be better than," Kyle Lowry said of the Bulls in a radio interview. "We have to compete against them."

The TV angle?

It's fun but that's about it.

"When you're out on the floor I don't know if, you know, if you're on TSN, SportsCentre with the 'RE' on the end of it, or SportsCenter," said Casey.

It's been some time since the Raptors were intentionally displayed on TNT, the league's major midweek broadcast partner.

A Toronto-Atlanta game on April 16, 2013 was a last-minute addition to the network's lineup after the originally scheduled Indiana-Boston game was postponed because of that day's Boston Marathon bombing.

The last regularly scheduled regular-season TNT game involving the Raptors was Feb. 27, 2002 when Toronto lost 90-85 to Tracy McGrady and the Orlando Magic.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pumped for prime time

"This one has a little bit of a stage and we're going to go out and fight for it."

Raptors GM Masai Ujiri on playing the Bulls on prime-time network TV

Numbers games

Casey, DDR moving up franchise lists

If the Raptors win, Dwane Casey ties Lenny Wilkens for second on the all-time coaching wins list with 113. Casey is 112-126 in his three year-plus Toronto tenure and Wilkens was 113-133 in his four seasons; Sam Mitchell is first with 156 coaching wins.

And DeMar DeRozan needs just five points to pass Andrea Bargnani and move into third place on the team's all-time scoring table. It took Bargnani 433 games to amass 6,581 points and DeRozan is at 6,577 in 390 games.

Kershaw claims 3rd NL Cy Young, Kluber edges King Felix in AL

Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw pitched a shutout Wednesday, a unanimous winner for his third NL Cy Young Award after leading the majors in victories and ERA and throwing a no-hitter.

Now, the big question: Is he the Most Valuable Player, too?

The 26-year-old lefty with a wicked curveball will find out Thursday if he's the first NL pitcher to sweep the MVP and Cy Young honours since Bob Gibson in 1968.

Also on Wednesday, Cleveland's Corey Kluber edged Seattle's Felix Hernandez for the AL Cy Young Award.

Nearly untouchable

1.77

Kershaw wnet 21-3 with a 1.77 ERA this past season for the Dodgers.

Kluber received 17 of 30 first-place votes and 169 points in balloting announced Wednesday by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Hernandez got 13 firsts and 159 points, and Chris Sale of the Chicago White Sox was third with 78 points.

In a landslide, Kershaw earned the NL's pitching prize for the second year in a row, getting all 30 first-place votes.

"Pretty cool," Kershaw said after the MLB Network telecast.

Johnny Cueto of Cincinnati was second in the Cy Young voting and Adam Wainwright of St. Louis finished third. World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner of San Francisco was fourth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEDs

Added drug rehab leads to Bosch's sentencing delay

The former owner of the South Florida clinic that supplied performance-enhancing substances to Major League Baseball players will get more drug rehabilitation.

A federal judge on Wednesday agreed to delay sentencing for Anthony Bosch from Dec. 18 to Feb. 17. Bosch lawyer Guy Lewis says Bosch needs a second phase of treatment for his admitted cocaine addiction. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pitch Smart. Guidelines aim to keep hurlers healthy

In an effort to stem the rising tide of pitcher injuries — in particular the sharp spike of Tommy John surgeries — Major League Baseball has teamed with leading medical experts to launch a website to promote best practices for protecting young arms.

The hope is that establishing universal guidelines for preventing arm injuries in youth will translate into fewer injuries at the big-league level.

The website, PitchSmart.org, is a joint project with USA Baseball — the sport's amateur governing body in the U.S. — and it provides evidence-based recommendations for age-specific pitch counts, rest days and other precautions to prevent injuries in kids aged 7 to 18.

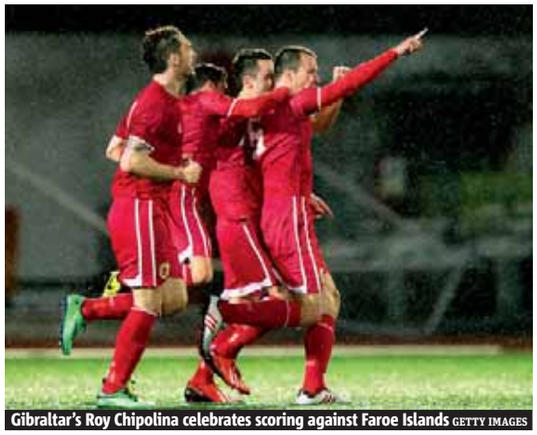
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"It makes sense to start fixing the problem at the root of it.

Glenn Fleisig, a leading biomechanics expert, on pitchers developing good habits early in their careers

Tiny Gibraltar face Goliath Germany


Gibraltar's Roy Chipolina celebrates scoring against Faroe Islands GETTY IMAGES

Aiming to better Brazil. Consisting mostly of part-time footballers the minnows want to concede less than seven against world champs in Euro 2016 qualifier

With a firefighter in goal, a customs agent anchoring the defence, a police officer and store worker roaming the midfield and a gym teacher on the attack, the best players from this rocky, 2.6-square mile territory will take on the world champions from Germany.

European soccer qualifiers often feature mammoth mismatches, as "minnows" such as San Marino and Malta take on world powers including England, Spain and Italy. But Friday's match might be one of the biggest underdog stories ever, with UEFA's newest and smallest member trying to avoid humiliation against the team that won the World Cup just four months ago.

"They are 10 worlds apart from us," Gibraltar captain and customs officer Roy Chipolina said. "But it's something I'll be able to tell my grandchildren."

Germany embarrassed World Cup host Brazil, full of some of the top players in the world, with a 7-1 victory in the World Cup semi-finals. And the Germans say they won't take it easy on Gibraltar in Nuremberg, wanting to stay on track to qualify for the European championship.

"It's vital to concentrate on the game against Gibraltar," said Germany defender Jerome Boateng. "We want to make a point, but we have respect for each opponent." Chipolina, 31, spends much of his time patrolling the borders of the sunny British outpost at the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea, where he's tasked with stopping drug smugglers. On Friday, he'll need to stop Thomas Mueller and Toni Kroos currently ranked as the No. 1 and No. 6 players in the AP's Global Football 10.

"Keeping them to single figures would be great," bar manager Richard Mew said as he poured a pint of beer in the Cannon pub, located just off the main street running through Gibraltar. So far in qualifying, Gibraltar has lost 7-0 to Ireland and Poland, and 3-0 to Georgia. Oh, for a similar score against Germany. "Everyone's been telling us, 'If they don't score more than seven, we are better than Brazil,"' Gibraltar defender Jack Sargent said. "That's our target."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Messi picks his spot to see off Croats in friendly

Argentina striker Lionel Messi vies for the ball with Croatia defender Tin Jedvaj during an international friendly on Wednesday at Upton Park, in London, England. Messi scored the winner from the penalty spot as World Cup runner-up Argentina came from behind to beat Croatia 2-1. Argentine defender Cristian Ansaldi cancelled out Anas Sharbini's 11th minute opener for the Croats before Messi struck. His goal in the 57th minute came after striker Sergio Aguero was judged to have been brought down by Croatia goalkeeper Lovre Kalinic when trying to round him. Messi stroked the ball into the bottom right corner as Kalinic dived the wrong way.

IAN KINGTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Racism. Roma Decin winning for the wrong reasons

Roma Decin goalkeeper Patrik Herak GETTY IMAGES

The Roma Decin football club is having its best season ever, winning six of 10 matches and climbing to fourth in the standings in the Czech Republic's lowest standing league.

But the team's mainly Gypsy players have found little to celebrate: They keep winning because their opponents don't turn up.

The succession of forfeits has stirred up painful feelings among Gypsies — also known as Roma — who have long suffered racism and discrimination in eastern Europe and continue to face huge hurdles in employment and education. Now, they claim, the stigma has extended to sports.

"I don't understand why clear racism is becoming part of the game," activist Radek Drahomir Horvath wrote in an open letter to President Milos Zeman. "I was not able to explain that to my daughter and son. Why do my children and I have to be confronted with such an unbelievable insult to our dignity?"

Five teams in the Czech Republic's lowest official football league have failed to show this season for matches against Roma Decin, preferring to take a forfeit loss and a fine of $70. The team had lost all four matches it actually played — until last week, when they got their first actual win in a penalty shootout with Dolni Habartice before the league broke for the winter.

The no-shows all deny that they sat out their matches because they dislike Roma. Rather, they say, it was a 2011 post-match brawl involving members of Roma Decin that caused them steer clear of the team.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamilton leveller

Canada's U-20s earn unexpected draw with England

Jordan Hamilton scored in second-half stoppage time to lift the Canadian under-20 soccer team to a 2-2 tie with England on Wednesday.

Hamilton's goal came on a volley after a Canadian free kick was stopped. The 18-year-old Toronto FC striker is currently on loan to C.D. Trofense in Portugal's second tier. Midfielder Michael Petrasso of England's Notts County scored in the 49th minute for Canada, which went behind twice before 6,986 at Goldsands Stadium. Petrasso took a nice through ball from Toronto FC's Manny Aparico and raced 40 yards to goal before calmly finishing the play. Arsenal striker Chuba Akpom opened the scoring for England from close range in the 15th minute before local favourite Baily Cargill of AFC Bournemouth made it 2-1 in the 85th minute.

The Canadian team is in Europe to prepare for the CONCACAF U-20 Championship in January in Jamaica.

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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do what you can with what you have and you will get what you need. Too many people expect life to come to them, but you're far too smart to be one of them.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Your powers of self-discipline will be tested over the next 24 hours. You will pass easily. But a harder test is on its way.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You enjoy soMe drama in your life but you need stability too. You'll be delighted to discover there are people you can turn to when things get tough.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You can patch up a relationship that has turned sour in recent weeks. Make the first approach and you will be heartened to learn a loved one is as eager as you to kiss and make up.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
There will be heart-warming moments today but don't let them detract from other important matters. A new relationship may be a lot of fun but family and financial issues have to be dealt with too.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The planets urge you to face up to what worries you the most. You may be surprised to discover that what you have been trying to avoid is actually quite exciting.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A financial problem you have been struggling with for weeks or months can be resolved, especially if you are prepared to listen to the advice of an older and wiser colleague.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
No matter who depends on you there are certain things you must do for yourself over the next 24 hours. An opportunity to improve your status must be seized immediately.

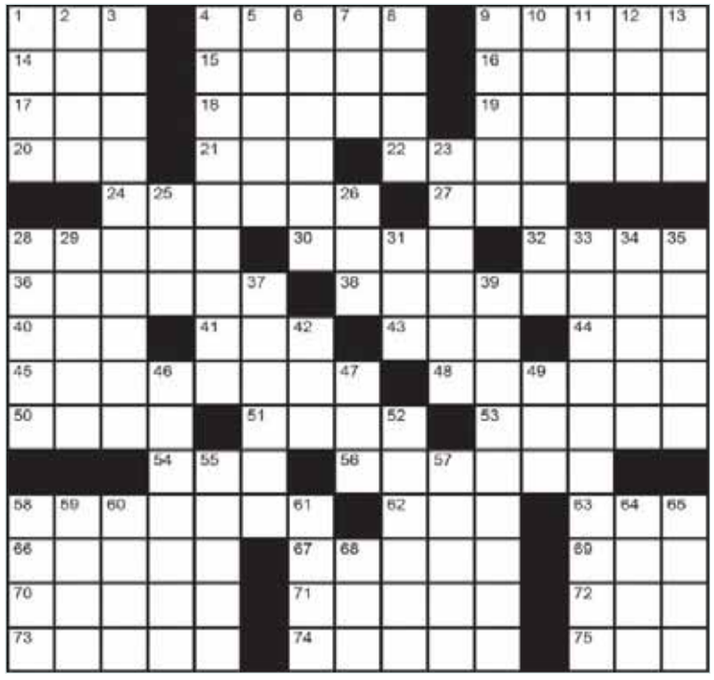
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
No matter how bruised your ego is, today will delight you. Don't worry about keeping on top of your routine. There will be plenty of time to catch up later in the month.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You need to approach serious issues in a serious manner. If you let things drift people are liable to get on your case and your reputation could suffer.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The tension that has been a feature of your emotional life of late will ease somewhat over the next 24 hours. Even routine tasks will seem less of a chore.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's Venus-Saturn link means you can patch things up with a friend. Sometimes a relationship can benefit from a dispute, especially if it clears the air.

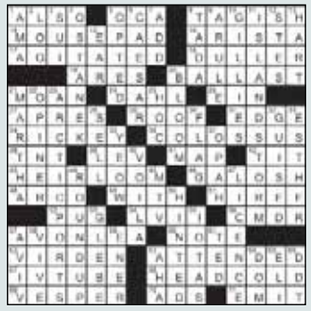
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Say "I do."
4. Hamilton's nickname, __ City
9. The Big __ (Attraction in Colborne, ON)
14. Past
15. Safari outfit hue
16. Hold up
17. Pro
18. Got smart, __ up
19. Particular purple
20. T.O. transport provider
21. Mr. Frehley
22. Ads-emailed-in-bulk source
24. Interrupt the stand-up
27. Fiber __ (Cereal brand)
28. Depart, poetically
30. Incision
32. Health food berry
36. Dominica's capital
38. BC's provincial bird, __ Jay
40. Summer hrs. acronym
41. NB: Saint John Airport code
43. Antacid brand
44. San Francisco's __ Hill
45. Lea Michele or Chris Colfer: 2 wds.
48. Newfoundland town; or, Neptune moon
50. Rockefeller Center muralist
51. Overlook
53. University bldgs.
54. Large bird
56. __ du Soleil
58. Reflection givers
62. Romanian currency
63. Seed holder
66. Prefix to 'clast' (Image breaker)
67. Surface
69. New in Toronto, __ Khan Museum
70. Actor Lorenzo
71. Ladies' men
72. Blood hue
73. CBC's "Republic of __"
74. Apprehensive feeling
75. Golf peg

Down
1. Float, as a scent
2. Rita Moreno is one of the few artists to have won all four major showbiz awards, known together by this acronym
3. NB village; or, former name of Montreal's Boulevard Rene-Levesque
4. New in Vancouver, __ Lodge Aboriginal Hotel & Gallery
5. Syrupy
6. Conference room chart supports
7. Supplement
8. Container closers
9. Commercials gig
10. Canadian breakfast serving, __ bacon
11. Fruit type
12. Bathe
13. Observer
23. Strong/effective
25. Summer: French
26. Chicago trains
28. Mr. Kinnear's
29. George Gershwin co-composed tune: "Tee-__-Un-Bum-Bo"
31. 'Meteor' suffix
33. Hairstyle wearer's preference, perhaps: 2 wds.
34. "___ with a View" (1985)
35. Book codes, briefly
37. The Beatles played Shea Stadium during it in '65: 2 wds.
39. "Still In Line" by Canadian emcee/producer __ feat. Promise
42. Jelly
46. Lasting
47. Mr. Ocasek
49. Promissory note
52. Kitchen floors surface
55. Canuck creature
57. Respites
58. Balmy
59. Flight-related UN Agency headquartered in Montreal [acronym]
60. "__ and Michele's High School Reunion" (1997)
61. Big tale
64. Arch type
65. Florida: Miami-__ County
68. Stimpy's pal

Yesterday's Crossword

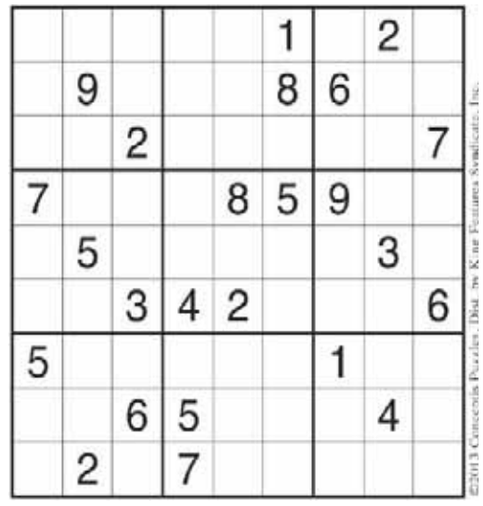


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	9	5	8	1	4	3	6
1	4	6	3	9	7	5	8	2
5	3	8	6	2	4	7	9	1
4	2	1	7	6	8	9	5	3
7	9	3	4	5	2	6	1	8
8	6	5	1	3	9	2	4	7
3	8	7	9	4	6	1	2	5
9	1	2	8	7	5	3	6	4
6	5	4	2	1	3	8	7	9

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